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A present from Mr Adams
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Jane Jane Mayne

from

her Grandmamma.

1838.

THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

BIRDS;

CONTAINING

A VARIETY OF FACTS

SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

AND INTENDED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

OF

CHILDREN.

WITH COPPER PLATES.

PART VI.

CONTAINING THE SIXTH ORDER.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER 6th. PASSERES.

The beak is conic, and sharp at the point.
The nostrils are oval, wide, and naked.

THIS Order may be separated into two divisions.

First, the Columba, or Columbine, which includes Pigeons.

Secondly, the Passerine, which includes all the other Genera that are placed under the Order of the Passeres.

Strictly speaking the Genus, or rather the Division Columba, forms an order of itself, which has been called the Columbine; for as is justly observed in a note in Linnæus, Pigeons cannot properly be classed either with the Gallinæ, or

the Paſſeres, becauſe they pair, they bill, they ſit alternately, they lay fewer eggs, they feed their young from their own beaks with what they have ſwallowed, and they build their neſts on high.

However as Linnæus, whoſe arrangement is followed, has placed them with the Paſſeres, they will be conſidered here as belonging to the firſt diviſion of that order.

Firſt Diviſion of PASSERES.

Genus 65. COLUMBA.

The bill is ſoft, nearly ſtrait, deſcending a little towards the point.

The noſtrils are oblong, half covered with a ſoft tumid or ſwelling membrane.

The tongue is intire.

THE genus Columba, or Pigeon, admits of two ſubdiviſions. The firſt with the feathers in the tail nearly of an equal length.

It has been obſerved that Pigeons are not our ſervants, like dogs and horſes, nor are they our priſoners like ſome kinds of poultry, but that they rather ſeem to be our voluntary companions, and occaſional gueſts, ſo long as they are provided with

with the conveniences they like.—Some prefer the dufty holes in decayed walls to the neateft boxes we can furnifh them with. Some lay in the crevices of rocks, or hollows of trees, whilft others never abandon thofe places that are appointed for them.

All animals in a domeftic ftate become variouſly marked, and from being better fed will be increafed in fize; thefe differences by attention may be rendered conftant, and varieties without end may, by culture and attention, be procured from one fpecies. This is inftanced in white Turkeys, white Ducks, Ducks and Fowls that are creſted, but in no birds does it prevail in a greater extent than amongft Pigeons, which, being very prolific, that is breeding very faft, would naturally become the moft varied. Some perhaps have been ſelected on account of their ſuperior fize, and from thefe a larger race has been produced; others on account of particular marks have been matched together, and thefe marks have become permanent or laſting. Others again, on account of ſome of their feathers growing in a particular form, or taking a particular direction. Moft of thefe, in the firſt inſtance, were only accidental varieties, the conſequence of their becoming domeftic.

The effects of cultivation are seen more or less in every animal under our care. Canary birds are now bred with crests, some with yellow feathers, some mottled, and by combining these varieties other new varieties will probably take place.

An account then of every different race of Pigeons, is not so properly the natural history of the bird, as an account of the art and industry of man, applied to this particular object.

The Stock Dove is so called because it is the stock or stem from which probably most of the others sprang; for however numerous the species of Pigeons may appear, it is very possible that a few only exist in nature, and that the rest are varieties, the natural effect of domestication at first, and particular attention afterwards.

The Stock Dove, which is the Pigeon in its wild state, breeds but once or twice in the year; they migrate into England in great numbers from colder climates at the approach of winter, some indeed stay with us the whole year, breeding in woods, on trees, in the holes of trees that are decayed, or in the crevices of rocks, whence it has sometimes been called the Rock Pigeon, and the Wood Pigeon.

Whilst

Whilſt the beech woods covered large tracts of land, they haunted them in myriads, their flocks extending in ſtrings of a mile in length as they went out to feed.

Their plumage is generally of a bluiſh caſt, the neck gloſſed with green, the back is white, and there is a black band on each wing, and at the end of the tail.

The firſt ſtage of domeſtication is the Dove-houſe Pigeon; this is the intermediate ſtate between the wild and the tame Pigeon. The Dove-houſe Pigeons breed three times a year, if they are pleaſed with their ſituation. As they diſlike interruption, a dove-houſe ſituated cloſe to our habitations ſeldom ſucceeds ſo well as one at the diſtance of four or five hundred yards, and expoſed to the morning ſun.

They frequently deſert their houſes when their ſituation is low, and fly to take poſſeſſion of others whoſe expoſure is more pleaſant; but if they ſhould continue in thoſe which have not the benefit of the morning ſun, they would not increaſe ſo faſt.

A Pigeon-houſe in a fine ſituation has produced four hundred pairs in a ſeaſon, whilſt another, leſs favourably placed, has produced only one hundred pairs.

When Pigeon-houſes are at ſome diſtance, it is neceſſary to guard them from birds of prey, ſuch as Hawks and Owls, and even from Magpies.

The tame Pigeon is in a ſtill higher ſtate of domeſtication, its colours and varieties are infinite.

Theſe Pigeons will breed almoſt every month, provided there be not too many in the ſame Dove-houſe; but then each pair muſt have three or four boxes, and ſo contrived that they may not ſee one another whilſt they ſit; if the number be too great, they will be frequently fighting and breaking the eggs.

They begin to lay at nine months old, and ſit from ſeventeen to twenty days; and as they breed ſo frequently, it has been calculated that in four years one thouſand eight hundred might be produced from one pair.

They lay each time two eggs, ſcarcely making any neſt; the cock and hen ſit by turns, one calling to the other by a gentle cooing, whenever it wiſhes to leave the neſt in ſearch of food. The cock watches near his mate attentively, whilſt ſhe is ſitting, and takes her place for two or three hours at a time, ſometimes twice in a day and night.

Their

Their fondneſs for their eggs is ſo great, that they will ſuffer ſevere hardſhips, rather than forſake them. A hen Pigeon, whoſe box was unfortunately placed ſo near a window during ſome very cold weather, that her feet were frozen and fell off, ſtill continued ſitting, until ſhe had hatched her young.

The young Pigeons are generally a cock and a hen; their parents feed them by firſt ſwallowing the grain, and after it is a little ſoftened in their firſt ſtomach, they throw it back through their beaks into the beaks of their young.

After Pigeons are once paired, they are very conſtant: nothing can be more pleaſing and aſſiduous than the attention of the mate to his partner, he ſeems to ſollicit her regard by the moſt intereſting manners, he walks frequently round her, diſplaying himſelf in a variety of attitudes, and calling to her in a note the moſt tender and plaintive. Of all birds they appear the moſt happy and affectionate, cooing to, and billing one another in a manner that ſeems to diſcover a tenderneſs, and even a delicacy of attachment.

The Greeks had improved the breed of Pigeons, and kept them in Dove-houſes. Pliny, among the Romans, ſpeaks of a large breed of Pigeons in Campania, and of people who, being very cu-

rious in Pigeons, bought them at extravagant prices; he says that they built turrets for them at the tops of their houses, and kept their pedigree.

It was probably from the Romans that we might first have learnt to keep them in Dove-houses. In Egypt they are very frequent, and are considered by the husbandman as a valuable part of his estate.

Pigeons are very fond of salt, and have frequently been the means of pointing out salt springs. In order to attach them to any particular Dove-house, a composition is sometimes made of salt, caraway-seeds, loam, and rubbish; and this is occasionally used to intice other Pigeons.

They are very delicate food.

Amongst the many varieties the following are some of the most remarkable.

The Roman, or Spanish Pigeon, it has a cere of a white mealy appearance, and is double the size of a common Pigeon.

The Rough-footed Pigeon, whose legs are covered with feather to the toes.

The Powter Pigeon, he can inflate or blow up his breast to a monstrous size, as large as the rest of his body. Linnæus says, that this variety, or species is found in Arabia Felix. The purest

breed

breed of these have the ten quill feathers white as far as the middle of the wing.

The varieties of this Pigeon are very numerous. As their breast is almost always swelled out with wind, they are obliged to draw back their heads; this prevents their seeing before them, and they are often surprised by birds of prey.

The Jacobine. The feathers round the back part of the head are raised, and turn in a contrary direction; the beak is very short. Of these there are many varieties; in general they breed pretty well, and they are beautiful birds: the Ruff and Capuchin Pigeons seem nearly related to the Jacobine.

The Laced Pigeon is white, the legs red, the feathers are loose in their webs, and curled or frizzled.—The Frillback is nearly related to it, the tip of each feather being bent upwards.

The Turbit Pigeon.—The feathers of the breast on each side turn back, the beak is short, and the head smooth; this is a very beautiful Pigeon, but does not easily pair with others, and is frequently taken by birds of prey.—The Owl Pigeon is like this, except that it is only of one colour, and the Turbit is of two colours.

The Fantail Pigeon.—The tail is raiſed, very wide, and furniſhed with many feathers. This Pigeon can raiſe and ſpread its tail like the Turkey Cock. Some of them have thirty feathers in their tails, whilſt many other Pigeons have but twelve. When their tails are ſpread, they are not only raiſed but thrown forwards towards the head, and their heads are drawn back towards the tail; all this time there is a quivering in the neck, as though it were convulſed by the ſeeming exertion. Theſe Pigeons do not fly ſo well as others, their large tails appear to be an incumbrance, and often occaſions them to be blown out of their right direction by the wind. Some of theſe are quite white, and ſome white except the head and tail, which are black.

The Tumbler is rather ſmaller than the common Pigeon, and frequently turns over and over as it flies, until it almoſt reaches the ground, as though it were ſeized with a giddineſs. It riſes very high, its flight is rapid, and all its movements quick and irregular. It is a ſmall Pigeon, and has ſometimes been called the Pantomime Pigeon from its tumbling.

The Almond Tumblers are the moſt valued: eighty guineas have been given for one of them.

There

There is a Pigeon nearly allied to the Tumbler, which, as it turns round, ſtrikes the air with that force with its wings, as ſometimes to break ſeveral of its quill feathers.

The Helmet Pigeon has the head, the tail, and the firſt quill feathers of the ſame colour; the reſt of the feathers are of a different colour.

The Perſian Pigeon has a large warty excreſcence above the beak, and a red circle extending round the eyes; it is a large Pigeon, its legs are ſhort, and it ſeldom goes far from the Dove-houſe.

The Carrier has a remarkably large white carunculated or warty cere, and a naked circle round the eyes.

Theſe Pigeons have often been employed to carry letters to a conſiderable diſtance in a ſhort time.

In the Pigeon-houſes of Grand Cairo, in Egypt, they ſeparate ſome of the males from the females, and ſend them to thoſe places from which they wiſh to receive news; the letter is tied under the wing of the Pigeon, who has been previouſly well fed, leſt he ſhould ſtay by the way; he flies ſtrait to the Pigeon-houſe where his mate

is

is kept, and in one day paſſes over a ſpace that a man would be ſix days in travelling.

At Aleppo they have Pigeons which will bring letters in leſs than ſix days from Alexandria, although it be four hundred miles diſtant. It is ſaid that a Pigeon went from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days journey, in forty-eight hours.

At the ſiege of Modena, Pliny mentions, that Hirtius without, and Brutus within the walls, kept up a conſtant correſpondence by Pigeons; and by that means baffled every attempt of Antony, (who was beſieging the place,) to intercept their letters.

In England they are often let looſe at Tyburn to inform the diſtant friends of the criminal of his diſgraceful death.

They do not always uſe on theſe occaſions the Carrier, which is a valuable Pigeon, as many others will anſwer the purpoſe.

The Horſeman is a breed between the Carrier and Powter, and often employed to convey letters.

A Dragoon Pigeon, which is bred by a Carrier and Horſeman, flew from St. Edmund's Bury to Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, which is ſeventy-two miles, in two hours and a half.

The

The Smiter Pigeon claps his wings together as he flies, ſo as to be heard at ſome diſtance.

The Turner Pigeon has a tuft of feathers hanging down backwards from the top of the head, like the mane of a horſe.

The Spot Pigeon has a ſpot on the forehead of the ſame colour as its tail; the reſt of its feathers are white.

The Norway Pigeon has a creſted head, and long feathers on its legs; it is as large as a fowl, and white as ſnow.

The Barbary Pigeon has a ſhort bill, a broad circle of mealy and warty red fleſh round its eyes; the plumage is bluiſh, and it has two blackiſh ſpots on each wing.

There are probably many other varieties already known to Pigeon-fanciers, and many new ones, perhaps, forming every day.

The Partridge Pigeon has a naked red ſkin round the eyes, the body is reddiſh above, yellow beneath.

It has a white mark on each ſide under the eye, on each ſide the throat, and at the ſetting on of each wing.

It inhabits Jamaica, feeds on myrtle-berries, builds in trees that have low boughs, and lines its neſt with hair and cotton: at firſt ſight it ſeems much like a Partridge.

The White Crowned Pigeon.—The crown of the head, and the circles round its eyes are white, the feathers of the body bluiſh, the wing and tail feathers are duſky, the beak red at the baſe.

The White Crowned Pigeons inhabit North America, the Bahama iſlands, and Jamaica; the inhabitants take great numbers, they feed on the ſeeds of the mangrove and wild coffee, and are bitter or ſweet, according to the food they live upon.

The White-winged Pigeon has a naked blue ſkin round the eyes, the tail feathers are aſh-colour with white tips, the two middle tail feathers duſky. It inhabits Aſia, and flirts its tail like a Water Wagtail.

The Triangular Spotted Pigeon has a naked red ſkin round each eye, triangular white ſpots on the wings, tail feathers black at the tips; the bill is duſky. It inhabits the ſouthern parts of Africa, and is common about the Cape of Good Hope.

The

The Great Crowned Pigeon has a black circle round each eye, an upright creſt, the body bluiſh, the ſhoulders ferrugineous or iron colour.

Six of the covert feathers of the wings are black, but iron-coloured at the points. The creſt on its head is large, upright, compreſſed, and compoſed of diſtinct feathers; the bill and legs are duſky, and the bird is nearly the ſize of a Peacock.

It inhabits the Molucca iſlands and New Guinea, and has been brought alive to England. In the Eaſt Indies they are ſometimes kept tame in their poultry-yards.

The male approaches his partner with the ſame geſtures as the common Pigeon, its note is cooing and plaintive, but loud. The crew of Mr. Bougainville, (who made a voyage round the world,) were much alarmed at their noiſe, imagining before they diſcovered what it proceeded from, that it was the cries of human beings. They build their neſts on trees.

The Ring Dove.—The tail is aſh-coloured above, and blackiſh at the tips; the greater quill feathers are duſky, and all except the outermoſt have the exterior edges whitiſh; on each ſide of the neck is a white creſcent; the legs are covered with

with feathers, almoſt to the toes. They inhabit Europe and Aſia, fly in flocks, and are very hurtful to corn-fields.

The Ring Doves are a large ſpecies of the Pigeon; they come into England and France in the ſpring, and go away in autumn. Their young are ſeen in great plenty in Auguſt. Some continue in France all winter; they perch upon trees, and make a large, but a ſlight and flat neſt among the branches. They lay two, and ſometimes three eggs, and breed twice a year, in April and at Midſummer. Mr. Buffon ſays, that they ſit but fourteen days, and that in fourteen days after the young are hatched, they are capable of taking care of themſelves. They coo louder than the common Pigeon in the breeding ſeaſon when the weather is fine, but if it be rainy they are quite ſilent.

They feed upon berries, acorns, wild ſtrawberries, and grain of all kind, and frequently do great miſchief among the corn.

They are very delicate food, and being much ſought after, are rather ſcarce. In ſome parts of England they are called Queiſts, and their note is moſt pleaſingly wild and plaintive.

The White-bellied Pigeon.—The tail is blue, terminated with a band of white. It is found in Jamaica,

Jamaica, and is probably a bird of paſſage; it feeds on berries, perches on trees, and makes a mournful noiſe, at the ſame time that it is loud and diſagreeable.

The Turtle.—The tail feathers are white at the points, the back is greyiſh, the breaſt is a pale reddiſh colour; on each ſide the neck is a ſpot of black feathers, with white tips.

Linnæus conſiders this bird as an inhabitant of India; it is not uncommon in England and in France. Turtles are very ſhy birds, retiring to breed in thick gloomy woods, generally amongſt oak trees; during that ſeaſon they are found in Buckinghamſhire, they afterwards migrate into Glouceſterſhire, Shropſhire, and into the weſt of England; but in autumn leave the kingdom. Indeed they arrive later, and depart ſooner, than any other ſpecies of Pigeon. In the ſummer they frequent the pea-fields in Kent in flocks, as ſoon as the peas begin to ripen, and deſtroy great numbers. The female lays two eggs, and is ſuppoſed to breed but once in the ſeaſon.

The Collared Turtle.—The body is of a light clay-colour; the hind part of the neck is marked with a collar of black feathers. Linnæus ſays that this

this bird is found in India; it is however a bird of paſſage in moſt European countries.

The Collared Turtles migrate in flocks; they continue in France four or five months, and breed there, building their neſts in the moſt ſilent and gloomy woods. Though naturally they are wilder than Pigeons, yet, like them, they may be tamed, and brought up in Dove-houſes. They may be paired with the common Pigeon, and a mixed breed will be produced, but it is not known whether theſe will produce others.

In ſome countries not frequented by men, Turtles are ſo tame, that they may be beat down by hundreds with a ſtick. Though their manners be gentle, careſſing, and affectionate, they are not ſo conſtant to each other as the common Pigeon. They eat and drink like the reſt of the Pigeons, not raiſing their heads until they have ſwallowed all the water they want at that time. Their cooing is ſweetly melancholy and plaintive.

The Ground Turtle.—The tail and quill feathers are duſky, the body purpliſh, the beak and feet yellowiſh. This ſpecies is about the ſize of a Lark, and inhabits the warmer parts of America; feeds on the ground like Partridges; when diſturbed they take a ſhort flight, alighting again ſoon

ſoon upon the ground; they eat grain of various kinds, and are frequently taken in traps, being eſteemed delicate food.

The Paſſerine Turtle is ſtill leſs, its plumage is duſky, it has five ſpots on each wing, like poliſhed ſteel; the outer tail feathers are white at the tips, the breaſt is a whitiſh red, and the wings reddiſh beneath. It inhabits the iſland of St. Domingo, and may be a variety of the Ground Turtle.

The Malacca Turtle is but a very little bigger than a Houſe Sparrow; the bill is black, tinged with yellow at the tip and baſe; ſides of the neck white, croſſed with many lines of black; outer tail feathers brown two thirds of their length, from thence to the end white; legs a yellow orange-colour.

It inhabits Malacca, is a beautiful ſpecies, and delicate food. Some of them have been carried to the Iſle of France, and increaſe there very faſt.

The Pompadour Pigeon has a bluiſh bill, its cheeks and chin are of a pale yellow; the back, breaſt and ſtomach, a pale green; the wing coverts a beautiful rich red, the quills black edged with yellow; the tail of a light green and long. It inhabits Ceylon, and is always ſeen flying or perched

perched on trees; its food is berries. The natives catch these Pigeons with bird-lime, the Europeans shoot them. Their flesh is esteemed a delicacy.

The Purple Crowned Pigeon.—Of this several varieties are found in the islands in the South Seas or Pacific Ocean. In Otaheite the crown of this Pigeon is a faint purple; at Ulietea deeper; at Tonga Taboo of a very deep vivid purple, surrounded by yellow. They feed on the fruit of the banana, and are easily tamed.

Mr. Bougainville mentions a beautiful green Turtle, and Pigeons with a green and gold plumage, perhaps of this species.

The White Nutmeg Pigeon.—The plumage is wholly white, except the quills, and one third of the tail near the end, which are black; the legs are light grey.

It inhabits New Guinea, feeds on nutmegs, the outer skin of them is perhaps the only part that serves for nourishment, as the nut itself passes through the bird uninjured for the purposes of vegetation; and by this means, the nutmeg-trees are propagated, and spread through all the islands which they frequent.

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There are other ſpecies, or varieties, that are called Nutmeg Pigeons for the ſame reaſon. Nor is this the only ſpice that is propagated in this manner. The cinnamon groves are diffuſed in Ceylon by the ſame means, by Pigeons called Cinnamon Eaters; and there are other plants the berries of which they eat, voiding the ſtones on trees and on the ground, where they grow.

The Hackled Pigeon's bill and irides are crimſon, the feathers of the head, neck, and breaſt, are long, narrow, and pointed, and produce a very ſingular effect, reſembling a poliſhed ſubſtance; it has a naked ſkin round each eye, of a deep red colour; the back, wings, and ſtomach, are of a deep blue; the tail a deep crimſon, and the legs black.

They are found in the Iſle of France, and their fleſh is ſuppoſed to be poiſonous.

The Second Diviſion, or PIGEONS, the feathers in whoſe tails are of unequal length.

The Paſſenger Pigeon.—The tail is wedge-ſhaped, there is a naked crimſon circle round each eye, and the breaſt of a reddiſh brown.

Theſe Pigeons inhabit North America; their migrations depend very much on the ſeaſon, for

it

it is the want of food that compels them to fly from one province to another. If the winter be mild, few are seen in the southern parts of that continent. They feed on acorns, the berries of various trees, and several kinds of mast. Wherever they stop they devour every thing of that kind, for they fly in myriads.

When they have eaten all the masts, or berries, that are fallen upon the ground, they fly strait upwards amongst the branches of the trees, in columns, by turns, and they beat down the acorns and mast with their wings. In Canada they frequently do great mischief in devouring the corn, before they begin their flight into more southern countries. They abound in the country near Hudson's Bay, where they breed in the woods; in some parts, it is said, they are in such numbers, that they join nest to nest, and that these nests reach from tree to tree for several miles in length. When their food is exhausted in those cold climates, they collect in immense numbers, and it is asserted that they fly by millions in a flock, intercepting the light of the sun, so as to occasion a degree of darkness in those places over which they pass. These flocks are said to be two miles long, and a quarter of a mile in breadth.—According to some writers, they are four or five

miles

miles in length, ſucceeding one another almoſt continually for three days together.

They alight in ſuch numbers upon trees, as frequently to break off by their weight limbs of the largeſt oaks, and the ground under the trees where they have rooſted, is covered to a conſiderable depth with their manure.

In North America the Indians watch their rooſting places, go there in the night with long poles, and kill them by thouſands. Formerly in almoſt every little town in the interior parts of Carolina, the inhabitants would provide a hundred gallons of the fat or oil of theſe Pigeons, which they eat with maize inſtead of butter.

A gentleman thought of a method of taking theſe Pigeons in great numbers, and with little trouble. He placed a veſſel with burning ſulphur under the trees, where they rooſted; the fumes ſuffocated them, and brought them down in ſhowers.

In Philadelphia the inhabitants often ſhoot them from the tops of their houſes.

It is very ſingular that ſome days, when almoſt all the inhabitants of a town go out to kill Pigeons, and deſtroy great numbers, that not one hen Pigeon ſhall be found amongſt them; and on other days not one cock.

The Carolina Pigeon.—The tail is wedge-ſhaped, and very long; it has a blue circle round each eye; the feathers on the under part of the body are a reddiſh brown.

It inhabits Carolina all the year, and feeds on berries and ſeeds. It is a great devourer of peas, for which reaſon, and becauſe its fleſh is delicate food, great numbers are taken in traps.

There are ſome other ſpecies of Pigeons of this as well as of the former diviſion, but nothing very intereſting is known reſpecting their habits; they are only diſtinguiſhed by natural hiſtorians by the difference of their plumage, &c.

ORDER 6th. PASSERES.

Second Diviſion, the PASSERINE.

The beak is conic, and ſharp at the point.

The legs formed for hopping, and ſlender, the toes are divided.

GENUS 67. ALAUDA.

THE LARK.

The beak is cylindrical, and ſlender; ſtrait except towards the point, where it is ſlightly bending; the mandibles equal, gaping outwards at the baſe.

The tongue is divided at the end.

The hind claw nearly ſtrait, and longer than the toe.

THE SKY-LARK.

The two outer tail feathers are white on the outer web all their length, the inner webs of the intermediate tail feathers, are of a ruſt colour.

SKY-LARKS inhabit all parts of Europe; and of Siberia, as far as Kamtſchatka; removing from cold into milder climates, at the approach of winter. In the neighbourhood of Dunſtable, four thouſand dozens have been taken between the 14th of September, and the 25th of

February, for the London market. The Larks in the country near Leipſic, are as famous in Germany, as thoſe of Dunſtable are in England, and ſuch numbers have been brought to Leipſic fair, that the exciſe or tax, that has been paid upon them, has amounted to 6000 dollars.

Nor is it only in Europe, and Aſia, that Sky-larks are found. They likewiſe inhabit Africa; but hitherto we have not heard that any of this ſpecies have been ſeen in America. In the ſummer, they prefer high, and dry ſituations; in the winter they deſcend into the plains, or level fields; it is then that they are fatteſt, for they are almoſt continually feeding; but in ſummer they fly, and ſing ſo much, and are ſo much engaged with the care of their young, that they are always lean.

The male bird is creſted, at leaſt it has the power of raiſing ſome of the feathers which grow upon its head; and it can learn the ſong of almoſt any other bird, even after its own is in ſome meaſure formed; it may be taught tunes by a bird organ, and performs them better than either a Canary-bird, or Bullfinch: it is ſo ſtrongly diſpoſed to imitate, that in order to have its own, or any acquired ſong unmixed, it ought to hear no other.

In

In a ſtate of liberty the Sky-lark begins his ſong the firſt fine weather in the ſpring, generally early in the morning, and repeats it in the afternoon: he riſes high in the air, ſometimes remaining as it were ſuſpended, then riſing again by jerks, he warbles the moſt muſical, and animated notes; ſinging ſtill louder as he riſes higher, ſo that his ſong may be heard when he has ſoared out of ſight; and lowering it as he deſcends, until it dies quite away.

He never ſings on the ground, though he lives moſtly there, for the Sky-lark cannot perch upon a tree, the form of his nail behind, which is nearly ſtrait, and very long, preventing him from claſping the branch.

Though Sky-larks generally riſe in the air by jerks, yet they frequently deſcend obliquely; and ſometimes, (eſpecially when they are in fear of a bird of prey,) they fall inſtantly like a ſtone.

Like other birds that mount very high, Larks have been carried away to ſea by the wind, and accordingly we read many inſtances of Larks, and other birds, alighting on the maſts of ſhips, at a great diſtance from land. By extreme cold weather, they are forced to the neighbourhood of ſprings that do not freeze, in large flocks; in-

deed in winter they are always collected together in numbers.

In the cold weather of January 1776, in the neighbourhood of Pont de Beauvoisin in France, they appeared in such numbers, that a man with a stick killed enough to load two mules; they were very lean, and seemed almost starved for want of food.

The female makes her nest on the ground, and lines it with grass, and small dry roots, and fibres: she conceals it with so much care, that it is found with great difficulty. She sits only eleven days, and in fifteen more, the young ones leave the nest, and follow her.

As the nest is made, and the young are hatched, and capable of providing for themselves, in so short a time, it is probable that they breed more than once in a season. In warm climates they are supposed to hatch three times; in England perhaps twice; in Sweden, which is colder, only once.

The mother does not often warm her young ones under her wings, they lie scattered at a little distance from one another, and she often flutters above them.

Buffon mentions an instance of a young lark which he had in confinement, that conceived all the affection of a parent for some nestlings that were brought to her, and though she was

but

but a little older than these young ones, yet she nursed them with a mother's attention, and anxiety.

After a separation, she flew to them the moment she was at liberty; and though the opportunities of escaping were frequent, she was withheld by her attachment. Her anxiety was so great, that at length she died of fatigue; the little ones did not long outlive their affectionate nurse, whose care had been so useful to them.

Young Larks feed on worms, ant's eggs, caterpillars, and grashoppers; for which reasons they are much esteemed in the countries infested by these insects.

They are taken in many different ways; when the weather is gloomy, they are caught in a net which is stretched on two poles eighteen feet long, and carried by two men. Sometimes they are caught by a long string, part of which is covered with bird-lime, and let drop upon the bird by two men, or boys, who walk along the field at as great a distance from each other, as the length of the line will permit, each holding one end in his hand.

Sometimes they are enticed by call birds of their own species, (for we cannot deceive them by imitating their notes,) or by a looking glass fixed in wood, which by means of a string is made

to turn ſwiftly round; perhaps the light it reflects may raiſe their curioſity.

When they are caught in order to be confined, as ſinging birds, it is ſometimes neceſſary at firſt to tie their wings, until they are a little uſed to the cage; or to ſtretch a piece of ſilk juſt beneath the upper part of the cage, becauſe they are apt to fly againſt it violently, and to hurt themſelves.

Their cages ſhould be very large, and perches are unneceſſary, but a turf ſhould always be placed on a ſtand, and the bottom ſtrewed with ſand, that they may duſt themſelves to get rid of troubleſome inſects.

When they are confined only to hemp-ſeed, their plumage becomes almoſt black.

At firſt the young are fed with poppy-ſeed, and bread moiſtened, afterwards with ſheep's heart, or veal minced ſmall, with egg boiled hard; this may be mixed with oats, grits, flax-ſeed, hemp-ſeed, and ſeveral other ſeeds.

In time they may be tamed ſo as to ſtand, and eat on the table, or out of the hand; the form of the hind claw prevents their perching on the finger.

THE TIT-LARK.

The two outside tail feathers are white on the outer webs, and there is a white line above each eye.

The tongue is divided at the tip into several threads.

It frequents the meadows in most parts of Europe, and feeds chiefly on worms, beetles, insects, and several kinds of grain; whilst it is eating it flirts its tail like a Water-wagtail.

This is one of the smallest of the Lark kind; the female builds her nest in low and marshy situations, lines it with horse-hair, and conceals it very artfully. She lays five or six eggs, and whilst the female sits, the cock perches himself upon a tree at a little distance; for Tit-larks can perch, the hind claw being bent, and therefore suited for that purpose: but he generally chuses a branch that is not very small, and depends most upon the claws of the toes before.

The cuckow frequently lays its egg in the Tit-lark's nest, the little cuckow has been found in it newly hatched, the old Tit-lark covering and feeding it, whilst the young Larks, though not quite feathered, were sitting on the outside of the nest. The Tit-lark is a timorous bird, and rises at the slightest noise; its song is plaintive, and

intereſting, though perhaps not ſo varied as the Sky-lark's; it has ſomething of the melancholy of the Nightingale's, but is not ſo continued, and the female ſings in this, and perhaps in other ſpecies of the Lark, tho' there is reaſon to ſuppoſe that the ſong of the male bird is ſuperior. Tit-larks ſing as they ſit on the ground, whilſt perched upon trees, or ſporting in the air, eſpecially as they are deſcending.

THE WOOD-LARK.

Its head is ſurrounded with a pale band.

The firſt wing feather is ſhorter than the ſecond.

The tail feathers duſky, about half of the two outer are marked obliquely with white.

There is a white wedge-ſhaped ſpot on the ſecond, third, and fourth.

It inhabits Europe, but not ſo far north as Sweden; and is found in Siberia, as far as Kamtſchatka.

Wood-larks fly in flocks; they do not, like Sky-larks frequent open ſituations, but generally build their neſts by the ſide of a wood, though they ſeldom take ſhelter there. The neſt is made of dry graſs, and lined with ſoft hair, the outſide is moſs; it is placed on the ground, the female lays five eggs; ſhe builds very early, and breeds twice

in

in the year, the firſt brood are ſometimes ready to fly before the beginning of April.

The Wood-lark, like the Tit-lark, can perch upon trees, but for the ſame reaſon chuſes the larger branches, and like the Sky-lark it ſings, as it ſoars in the air.

It is a very tender bird, and preſerved with great difficulty. Indeed it ſeldom lives a year in a cage, or ſurvives moulting. Its ſong is very melodious, and plaintive, much like the Nightingale's, and like the Nightingale it ſometimes ſings in the night. Some have thought that its ſong has a reſemblance to the Blackbird's.

The MEADOW-LARK.

The tail feathers duſky, the lower half white, except in the two in the middle; the throat and breaſt yellowiſh; over each eye a ſtripe of yellowiſh white.

It is not found farther north than Sweden.

Meadow-larks frequent brakes, and ſtubble lands, and after harveſt they are found in great numbers amongſt oat ſtubbles.

The male is rather larger than the female; in plumage they nearly reſemble each other, but the males are ſo quarrelſome that

they may eaſily be known when they are brought together, for they immediately begin to fight, with every appearance of jealouſy and hatred.

In the ſpring the male perches upon trees, either to call or to diſcover the female; ſometimes too he riſes in the air and ſings, but he ſoon alights again on the ground and joins the female.

The female, when any thing approaches her neſt, diſcovers it by her fears, and her cries; in this ſhe differs from almoſt every other ſpecies of the Lark, for in general they ſit ſtill and motionleſs.

The Meadow-larks are tamed with difficulty; their wings muſt be tied at firſt, or a piece of ſilk ſhould be ſtretched below the top of their cage, to prevent their hurting themſelves againſt the wires. For ſome time at firſt they ought to be kept in the dark, and the light ſhould be admitted by degrees.

THE GRASSHOPPER-LARK.

The tail feathers are duſky, the outer ones white half way upwards, the next have a white wedge-ſhaped ſpot at their points. There are two lines of white upon the wings.

The

The Grafshopper-lark inhabits England, Germany, and Sweden: It is the fmalleft fpecies, and in fome parts of England is called the Pipit, from its cry. In the winter its note is thought to refemble the chirping of the Grafshopper, on which account it is likewife called the Grafshopper-lark. It makes this noife as it flies, or whilft it is perched upon a branch, for it can perch, and even upon fmall branches, its hind claw is better fuited for this purpofe than that of any other Lark, becaufe it is not fo long in proportion, and is lefs ftrait.

In the fpring the male bird fings with a great deal of action, fluttering his wings, and raifing his feathers; his fong, though fimple, is melodious, and the notes are diftinctly pronounced. In the fummer he chirps the whole night.

This fpecies appears in England about the middle of September, many are taken about the neighbourhood of London: they flutter a little way rather than fly. They are very artful birds, fkulking in the middle, and thickeft part of hedges, and running along for a hundred yards together.

The female makes her neft in a very retired fituation, but on the ground, fo that the young

are

are often devoured by ſnakes. She lays five eggs.

THE CRESTED-LARK.

The tail feathers are black, the two outer are white on the outer webs. The head is creſted.

This Lark is found in moſt countries in Europe, but not ſo frequently as the Sky-lark; it is moſtly ſeen on the banks of rivers, by the ſides of ditches, or running along the tops of furrows. In the winter it frequents the high roads to pick up any ſcattered grain.

It perches ſometimes on walls and roofs of houſes, the female builds her neſt like the Sky-lark, but generally near the high road, and lays five eggs. She does not ſit very conſtantly, indeed the eggs do not ſeem to require ſo great a degree of heat, or at leaſt ſo continued a warmth as thoſe of ſome other birds. The ſong of the male bird is very melodious, and even loud, but at the ſame time ſo little diſturbing, that a ſick perſon might bear it without much inconvenience in his chamber. For the ſake of their melody they are often confined in a cage. Though naturally they are not very wild, yet they cannot bear a long confinement; for this

reaſon

reaſon it is uſual to releaſe them at the end of June, after which they ſeldom ſing. It is eaſy to catch others the next ſpring, or indeed their ſong may be enjoyed during the winter, by placing a young Canary bird near them, who will eaſily learn it.

Their ſinging is attended with a tremulous motion in their wings. They are the firſt to announce the return of ſpring. If the weather be clear, and ſerene, they ſing early in the morning as if to welcome the riſing ſun.

In gloomy weather they ſeem melancholy, and are ſilent.

The Creſted Larks are often deſtroyed by birds of prey.

THE CALANDRE-LARK.

The outer tail feathers are entirely white on the outer web, and about half way from the end of the inner; the ſecond and third tail feathers are tipped with white.

On the breaſt is a black band almoſt in the form of a creſcent.

They inhabit Italy, Sardinia, and the neighbourhood of Aleppo in Turkey in Aſia; and the Deſerts bordering on the Don, and the Wolga. They are likewiſe found in North Carolina.

The

The Calandre is one of the largeſt ſpecies of Larks, his beak is ſhort, and ſtrong, ſo that he can eaſily break many kinds of ſeeds. His ſong is louder than the Sky-lark's, but ſo melodious, that in Italy it is not unuſual to ſay of a good ſinger that he ſings like a Calandre. This bird too can eaſily acquire the notes of the Linnet, the Goldfinch, the Canary, and other birds, for it is an excellent imitator, and frequently mimicks the chirping of chickens, and the mewing of a cat. It is of ſo wild a diſpoſition when firſt confined, that it is neceſſary either to tie the wings, or to ſtrain a piece of ſilk acroſs the upper part of the cage; when it is a little accuſtomed to confinement it ſings almoſt continually.

THE SHORE-LARK.

The tail feathers are white on the inner half, the throat is yellow, and it has a black band paſſing under each eye, a little way down the neck; on the lower part of the neck is a broad black band.

It inhabits North America, Germany, Ruſſia, and Siberia. In winter Shore larks come in great flights to the ſouthern provinces of North America, frequenting ſand hills on the ſea ſhore. They feed on graſs ſeeds, and the buds of the

the birch tree, they run into ſmall holes, and keep cloſe to the ground.

They are eſteemed delicate food, and frequently taken in ſpringes made of horſe-hair, which are ſet in ſome place where the ſnow is removed, and chaff is ſtrewed about.

Some ſay that it has little or no ſong, and others ſay that its ſong is delightful.

GENUS 68. STURNUS.

THE STARE.

The beak is ſlender, depreſſed, a little blunt, the upper mandible very ſtrait.

The noſtrils guarded above by a prominent rim.

The tongue hard and cloven.

THE STARLING.

Its beak is yellowiſh, the plumage black, gloſſed with changeable blue, purple, and copper colour; with white or pale yellow ſpots.

It inhabits both Europe, and Africa; for it is a bird of paſſage, migrating from one country to another, and is found from Sweden, to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Starling breeds in hollow trees, ſometimes ſeizing

ſeizing the neſt of the Wood Pecker, who in its turn alſo ſeizes upon the Starling's neſt. Sometimes too it will uſe the old neſt of a Thruſh, for it is not nice in theſe reſpects, collecting only a few leaves, or other dry materials to lay its eggs upon; occaſionally they breed under the eaves of houſes, in towers, ruins, in cliffs or high rocks over the ſea; the neſt is frequently made of ſtraw and ſmall fibres of roots, and lined with leaves.

Starlings are gregarious birds.—In winter they aſſemble in flocks. They collect in immenſe numbers in the fens of Lincolnſhire, and do great damage among the reeds, by roofting upon them in ſuch multitudes, as to break them down by their weight; for reeds are uſed there for thatch, and are the harveſt of that country; ſometimes they are ſeen in company with Redwings, and Fieldfares; they are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from other birds by their manner of flying, which is very irregular, and diſorderly.

They feed principally on worms, and inſects; they will ſometimes eat grain, and ſome kinds of fruits, and they have been known to get into Pigeon-houſes, to ſuck the Pigeon's eggs.

They are very docile, and diſpoſed to imitate; for

for this reaſon they are often confined in cages, and taught to ſpeak.

Their fleſh is very bitter.

Of this ſpecies there are ſeveral varieties, one that is wholly white, the bill reddiſh, and the legs fleſh coloured.

Another variety that is white, ſpotted with blue.

A third is cream-coloured, with white ſpots.

There are ſeveral other ſpecies of the Stare, but nothing remarkable is known of their manners, except the

WATER OUZEL,

Whoſe plumage is black with a white breaſt.

It inhabits Europe, frequenting watery places; in the winter it is generally ſeen near cataracts, or falls of water, and ſprings that do not freeze; though it is not web-footed, it deſcends in a wonderful manner through rapid whirlpools, to feed upon the oniſci, and other inſects, that are at the bottom; and walks about upon the ground under the water, in ſearch of this kind of food; it devours inſects, and ſmall fiſh only, and does not feed on grain; it frequently wags its tail, and its noſtrils are almoſt covered with a little rim.

It breeds in holes in the banks, and lays five white eggs tinged with red; the neſt is curiouſly made of hay, and fibres of roots, and lined with dead oak leaves, having an entrance of green moſs.

GENUS 69. TURDUS.

THE THRUSH.

The beak in this Genus is ſtraitiſh, the upper mandible a little bending towards the point, and ſlightly notched.

The noſtrils are naked, in ſome ſpecies they are half covered above with a little membrane or ſkin.

The corners of the mouth are furniſhed with a few ſlender hairs.

The tongue is a little jagged at the end.

The outmoſt toe adheres as far as the firſt joint to the middle toe.

The firſt ſpecies is the MISSEL-THRUSH.

Its back is duſky, its neck and cheeks are white, or yellowiſh white, ſpotted with brown; the baſe of the lower mandible, and the gape, yellow, the other parts of the mandible duſky.

It inhabits Europe, in England it ſtays all the year, but in ſome parts it is a bird of paſſage.

The Miſſel birds feed on berries, of various kinds; the holly, ivy, hawthorn, and particularly the

the berries of the miſſeltoe; indeed it is a means of propagating that plant, for the ſeeds paſſing through the body, and being let fall on trees, grow there.

They build their neſts in buſhes, or low trees, or by the ſide of a tree, frequently the aſh tree; it is made on the outſide with twigs, then with moſs, and leaves, and lined with fine withered graſs. The hen lays four or five eggs, of a dingy fleſh colour, marked with reddiſh ſpots.

The Miſſel bird's ſong is very agreeable, though not ſo melodious as that of the common Thruſh; they ſing early in the ſpring, from the ſummit, or top of a very high tree, from which they may be heard to a great diſtance, varying their note continually; ſometimes too they ſing early in the year, when the weather is blowing, and ſtormy; on which account they are called ſtorm cocks.

They are good eating. Some varieties of this bird have been found, one of a reddiſh cream colour, the ſtomach white with cream colour ſpots; another variety white, ſpotted with brown beneath.

THE

THE FIELDFARE is another Species.

The tail feathers are black, except the outer ones, which are whitiſh at their points on their inner margin. The head and extreme part of the body grey, or a duſky white.

Fieldfares are found all the year in Poland and in Sweden, in prodigious flocks; in England and France they are only birds of paſſage, making their appearance in winter, or the latter end of autumn, and returning in the ſpring. They appear conſtantly in the Orkney Iſlands, at the approach of winter, in their paſſage. Their food is berries; in Sweden they frequent thoſe parts where the juniper grows, and there they build in high trees.

Their fleſh is eſteemed. The Romans kept theſe birds, and the Redwing, by thouſands in their aviaries to fatten, eſteeming them a delicacy.

THE REDWING, the 3d Species of this Genus.

The wings are ruſt coloured beneath, its eyebrows are whitiſh.

It viſits England with the Fieldfare, but with us has only a piping note. In Sweden it warbles melodiouſly in the ſpring, perched on the top of a high tree, in Maple foreſts. It builds in ſome

low ſhrub or hedge, and the female lays ſix blueiſh green eggs, ſpotted with black.

Redwings, common Thruſhes, and Fieldfares, abound ſo much, and are killed in ſuch numbers for the markets in Poliſh Pruſſia, that a tax has been paid for 30,000 at Dantzic only, in one ſeaſon.

THE THROSTLE.

The wing feathers are ruſt-coloured at the baſe, on the inſide; the under part of its body is ſpotted, the ſpots are ſhaped like the heads of arrows, with their points upward.

This is one of our fineſt ſong birds, and ſings the longeſt. It begins its melodious warbling early in the ſpring, and continues until the end of autumn. Perched upon ſome high tree, it amuſes us in our walks with its delightful ſong.

With us the Thruſh is not gregarious, and though it remain in England all the year, poſſibly it may go from one part to another, at the approach of Winter, or retire into the woods. In France Thruſhes are migratory, appearing in Burgundy twice a year: firſt in April, and leaving it in May; and again at the vintage, when

when they do a great deal of damage in the vineyards, by eating the ripe grapes; they disappear again at the approach of winter.

THE REDBREASTED THRUSH.

The upper parts of the body olive brown, the stomach is reddish, the eyelids are white, and it has a white spot on each side between the beak and the eyes: the tail is black, edged with olive brown.

This is a North American bird, and retires from the warmer into the more northern parts to breed. In some climates Red-breasted Thrushes build their nests, lay, and hatch their eggs, in fourteen days: in colder situations they require twenty-six days. The nest is composed of roots and moss, and the hen lays five eggs: both male and female share the care of making the nest, and feeding the young; whilst the female is sitting, the male frequently cheers her with his musical voice.

Though they migrate to colder climates in the spring, this does not appear to arise from their being unable to support the heat; because there has been an instance of a single bird of this species remaining all the summer in Virginia, feeding on the berries of a tree, which had been lately introduced into that country, and of which it seemed very fond.

Their food is chiefly worms and infects; they feed alſo upon the ſeeds of ſaſſafras, or tupelo and pokeberries, and of theſe laſt they are ſo fond, that it is ſaid their fleſh, at the end of the year, is in conſequence tinged of a purpliſh colour.

The ſong of theſe birds is very melodious in their wild ſtate, but they will not bear confinement in a cage; yet they are not ſhy or diſtruſtful, for they are frequently ſeen hopping on the ground cloſe to houſes.

THE MIMIC THRUSH,

Is of a duſky aſh-colour above, beneath of a light aſh-colour; the quill feathers black, on their lower parts tip'd with white.

It inhabits Virginia, and Carolina, and indeed ſome parts of South America: it ſings moſt melodiouſly as it flies from ſhrub to ſhrub, and imitates the cry of almoſt every animal it hears; the European Nightingale does not exceed its ſong, and like that it ſings the greateſt part of the night. It frequents moiſt woods, and builds both in buſhes and trees; but it is ſo ſhy, that like the Redſtart with us, it will forſake its neſt if much obſerved, or if the eggs be touched; the young, when taken, are reared with great difficulty.

THE MOCKING THRUSH.

Its back is dusky, its breast and two outmost tail feathers are white, and its eyebrows are white.

It is an inhabitant of America.

Suspended in the air, it enraptures those who hear it with its song; which no melody can rival.

Though its natural notes be inexpressibly sweet, its powers of imitation are such, that it can mimic the song of every bird it hears, and any other noise however discordant; the mewing of a cat, the chattering of a magpye, or the croaking of a frog; from the variety of its note, it has a name among the Mexicans which signifies 400 tongues. It begins generally with its own natural song, and introduces into it a variety of melody, which it has adopted from other birds.

In the warmer parts of America it is singing almost incessantly, day and night, from March, to August; and as though animated by its own inimitable song, it gradually raises itself on the place it is perched on, extending its neck, drawing it back, stooping, rising, fluttering its wings, and turning itself round with a variety of action.

The

The Mocking Thruſh has great courage, and is not afraid of attacking birds much ſuperior in ſize.

It is however very tender, and found in thoſe parts of America which are to the north of Carolina, only in the ſummer ſeaſon; in the more ſouthern climates it continues the whole year, building its neſt in June; the hen lays ſix eggs.

It often builds in fruit trees, and frequents the neighbourhood of houſes; it is a familiar bird, often ſinging melodiouſly, perched on a chimney top; yet it will forſake its eggs on perceiving that its neſt is diſcovered.

THE STONE THRUSH.

The head is blue, the tail ruſt colour, the body reddiſh, with ſmall duſky ſpots; the two middle tail feathers are duſky, the reſt are reddiſh, except at the very tips.

It is found on the mountains of Switzerland, of Auſtria, of Tyrol, and the Alps.

This bird receives its name from the places which it frequents, for it generally ſtands upon a ſtone; it appears to be very diſtruſtful and ſuſpicious, and ſeems careful to keep out of the reach

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of a gun, for upon any perſon's approaching within gun ſhot, it immediately flies away, alighting again upon a ſtone, ſo that it can ſee all around.

The female builds her neſt in the top of a cavern, or the hole of a rock, difficult of acceſs, and lays three or four eggs.

The neſt is artfully concealed, and when after great toil, and ſome danger, you have found it, the old birds defend it with great reſolution, ſtriking at the eyes of thoſe who attempt to invade it.

The young ones muſt be taken before they can fly, for they are ſo artful, and ſo cautious, that they cannot be enſnared in any traps.

Though their natural food be worms, and inſects, when brought up in a cage they will live upon the ſame food that is given to young Nightingales.

Their ſong is very melodious, and they eaſily learn the notes of other birds, and even tunes. They generally ſing at day break, and at ſun-ſet; and if a candle be brought to their cage in the night, they will begin their ſong. In the day time they often ſeem to be practiſing their notes in a lower key.

THE

THE ROSE-COLOURED OUZEL.

The plumage is of a faint rose colour, the head, wings, and tail, black; and the back part of the head crested.

This is a beautiful, and indeed rather a scarce bird in Europe; two or three have been found in England, and a few near Bologn in France, and several in Burgundy: the black feathers on the head, wings, and tail, are glossed with a beautiful cast of green, and of purple; the breast, the stomach, the back, and the smaller coverts, are tinged with a delicate rose colour, of two different shades.

Little is known of the habits of this very elegant bird; great flocks appear every year near the river Don, and the Irtis, and on the borders of the Caspian Sea, they devour great numbers of locusts, and breed amongst the rocks. In the summer they are found near Aleppo, where they are called the Locust bird.

THE BLACKBIRD.

Its body is black, the oak and eye brows yellow.

It inhabits Europe, frequents woods, and disseminates juniper.

The beak is not emarginated or notched, the female is dusky rather than black.

The Blackbird does not, in many instances at least, migrate from one country to another, but in winter conceals itself in hedges, and thickets, in very thick woods near springs, that do not freeze; especially where there are evergreens, that it may be the less exposed, and where perhaps it can best support itself with food during that rigorous season.

Blackbirds sometimes visit our gardens in summer, and are great devourers of fruit. In a wild state they live on almost all kinds of berries, fruit, and insects: when confined they are fed in part with meat, boiled, and minced; they will eat bread and butter, and are oftentimes kept on a kind of paste, which may be preserved for a long time without spoiling.

The kernels of the pomegranate are poisonous both to them, and to Thrushes.

They are very delicate food, and in those countries where they feed on olives, and myrtle berries, their flesh acquires a juiciness, and a perfume, which is very agreeable.

They are persecuted both by men, and birds of prey, which prevents their increasing very fast; this

this otherwiſe would probably be the caſe, for they begin to lay very early in the ſpring, and lay more than once. Their neſt is a little like the Thruſh's, but lined within; the outſide is compoſed of moſs, and mud, and lined with bents of graſs, and fibres of roots; and they are ſo induſtrious, that it is finiſhed in eight days. They generally build low, in buſhes, or in trees that are not very high, and there have been inſtances of their making their neſts in the hollow of a tree. Mr. De Salerne ſays, that a Blackbird having built its neſt in a hedge, and very near the bottom, finding that two hatches of young had been deſtroyed by cats, the third time placed it in an apple tree, eight feet above the ground. The female lays five or ſix bluiſh eggs; the male does not aſſiſt her in ſitting, but provides her with food.

A gentleman ſays, that he had ſeen a Blackbird that was hatched early in the year, undertake the care of ſome little ones that were lately hatched.

Although Blackbirds lay more than once in a ſeaſon; their firſt laying frequently miſcarries, from the inclemency of the weather, in the early part of the year.

The young birds are ſuppoſed to moult more than once the firſt year, each time the feathers of the cock bird which at firſt are of a duſky reddiſh

brown, like thoſe of the hen, become more black, and the ſides of their bills more yellow.

The old birds moult at the end of the ſummer; they begin to ſing early in the ſpring, and ſometimes again after moulting.

They do not fly in flocks, but having a very quick ſight, and being naturally ſolitary and timid, they do not ſuffer themſelves to be approached: Yet they are not very ſullen when taken, and are eaſily tamed: In confinement they may be taught other notes than their own; to whiſtle, and even to ſpeak.

Their note is very fine, but too loud to pleaſe, except in the open air.

They are taken eaſily in traps. Being naturally reſtleſs, when confined, they are teazing to other birds that are ſhut up with them: therefore they are improper birds to be kept with others in an aviary.

A Blackbird is ſuppoſed to live about ſeven years. There have been inſtances of an accidental variety of this ſpecies, whoſe feathers were moſtly white.

THE RING OUZEL.

Its plumage at a diſtance ſeems blackiſh, but upon examination each feather is margined with grey, or aſh-colour; on the breaſt is a large patch, or creſcent of white, and the inſide of the beak is yellow.

The Ring Ouzel ſeems to be a bird of paſſage, though his migrations are not very diſtinctly known. In October they are ſeen in ſome parts of France, they come there in ſmall flocks, from twelve to fifteen, and ſtay but a few weeks: They diſappear when the froſts begin, and return again in April or May. At certain ſeaſons they are ſeen in greater numbers in Sweden, Scotland, Savoy, Switzerland, and Greece: it is probable too that they are diſperſed in ſome parts of Aſia, Africa, and in ſome of the iſlands near the African coaſt.

They have been obſerved in Hampſhire twice a year, in April, and September, in flocks of twenty or thirty; thoſe that breed in Scotland, and Wales, never leave their native country: in Scotland they breed amongſt the hills, but come down to feed on the berries of the mountain aſh.

On Dart-moore in Devonſhire, they build in

the banks, by the ſide of ſtreams, and are very noiſy when diſturbed; their neſts are placed at the bottom of buſhes cloſe to the ground, conſtructed very much like the Blackbird's, and they lay five eggs.

They feed on berries, and inſects, they are fond of ivy berries, and of grapes; in France, during the vintage, they get very fat, and their fleſh is then rich, and juicy. They feed too upon ſnails, and are very dextrous in breaking their ſhells on a ſtone, to enable them to get at their contents.

THE REED THRUSH.

The plumage on the upper part of the body is of a reddiſh brown, beneath of a dingy white; the wing feathers edged with a reddiſh brown.

It inhabits Europe, particularly the marſhy parts, where reeds grow, and climbs up them in the ſame manner as Woodpeckers climb trees; it builds its neſt ſuſpended from three reeds, faſtened together, or on moſſy hillocks amongſt the reeds and ruſhes. The male ſings continually, whilſt the female ſits; from which it has been called by ſome the Water Nightingale.

The CHANTING THRUSH is found in the ſouthern provinces of China; it is there called the Nightingale,

Nightingale, and is said to be almoſt the only bird in that extenſive empire that has a ſong.

The PIGEON THRUSH is found in the Philippine iſlands; like the Starlings in Europe, it often builds in pigeon-houſes, from which it has its name.

The GREEN THRUSH comes from China, it ſings well, and like the Starling is fond of wetting itſelf with water.

The GREY THRUSH inhabits the coaſt of Coromandel; it is moſtly hopping on the ground after inſects, which it finds there.

The YELLOW CROWN'D THRUSH inhabits Ceylon, and Java; it is frequently tamed, and kept in cages, and is very imitative.

The NUN THRUSH inhabits the woods of Abyſſinia, feeding on berries and fruits, frequenting ſuch trees as are upon the brinks of precipices, which makes it difficult to be ſhot, or at leaſt to be procured when killed.

The BLACK-BREASTED THRUSH inhabits Cayenne; the throat and breaſt are black, bordered all round with white like a cravat.

The MUSICIAN THRUSH, is black, mixed with brown; the chin, under the eyes and throat, are reddiſh orange; and on each ſide the neck, is a broad patch of black, ſpotted with white.

It inhabits Cayenne, and ſeems of a ſolitary, and timid character; ſeldom quitting the trees where it perches, but for food. Its ſong is very melodious, and thought to reſemble a flute; by many it is eſteemed ſuperior to that of the Nightingale, from the natives this has procured the bird its name of the Muſician. It feeds on ants and other inſects.

In Cayenne is found the CHIMING THRUSH; this ſpecies generally flies in ſmall flocks, of about half a dozen; they have a ſingular cry, reſembling a chime of three bells, of different notes, from which they take their name.

Another kind of Thruſh found in Cayenne has a remarkable cry, very loud, and like the alarum of a clock, which it repeats morning and evening;

evening; on this account, it is called the ALARUM THRUSH.

There is a ſpecies of Thruſh called the Ant-eater, which likewiſe inhabits Cayenne; it feeds on ants, and runs up trees like the Woodpecker, ſupporting itſelf in the ſame manner by its tail.

GENUS 70. AMPELIS.

The beak is ſtrait, and convex, the upper mandible the longer, and ſlightly bowed, both mandibles are toothed, or notched near the end, the noſtrils are hid in briſtles.

The tongue is ſharp, cartilaginous, and divided.

The middle toe connected at its origin to the outmoſt toe.

There are no birds more diſtinguiſhable than thoſe of this genus, for the delicacy and variety of their colours, or the beauty and gloſſineſs of their plumage.

All the richeſt colours of nature, the various ſhades of violet, purple, blue, orange, red, pure white, and velvet black, are laviſhed here with

gayeſt profuſion; ſometimes moſt delicately ſoftened into each other, and ſometimes moſt ſtrikingly contraſted, and the changeable ſhades which the ſame feathers exhibit in different points of view, produce a ſplendour of effect, which words cannot expreſs, the imagination conceive, or the pencil imitate.

All the ſpecies of this beautiful genus of birds inhabit only the warmer climates of America, ſeldom more to the ſouth than Brazil, or more northward than Mexico.

In this range of country they ſeem migratory; though they appear nearly at the ſame time, they do not aſſociate together; but frequent marſhy ſituations, finding upon the vegetables which grow there, the inſects on which they feed. They are of all ſizes, from that of a Pigeon to a Thruſh. Many are deſtroyed both for the ſake of their feathers, which are beautiful, as well as for their fleſh which is delicate food. They are ſuppoſed to be very deſtructive to the rice plantations; if that be caſe, it is no wonder that the natives ſhould endeavour to prevent their increaſing too faſt.

The firſt ſpecies is the WAXEN CHATTERER.

The back part of the head is ſlightly creſted; the ſecondary feathers in the wing are covered at the tips, with a ſealing-wax-like ſubſtance.

The birds of this genus inhabit Europe, Aſia, and North America. It is difficult to ſay what parts of Europe the Chatterers principally frequent becauſe they are occaſionally found in moſt; a very few in England. About Edinburgh they appear annually in the month of February; they are numerous in Germany, and perhaps in greater numbers ſtill in the northern parts of Europe, for they ſeem rather to paſs through, than to migrate into the ſouthern parts: they have been ſeen to arrive in Italy in flocks of more than one hundred, and they have paſſed through Sweden in ſuch numbers as almoſt to intercept the light. It is not eaſy to determine what occaſions their leaving their native country, which perhaps may be Tartary.

Their migrations take place ſometimes once in three, and ſometimes once in ſeven years, and may ariſe probably from an occaſional ſcarcity of food.

They

They are particularly fond of grapes, they feed on the berries of the mountain aſh, the white thorn, the eglantine, the laurel, almonds, apples, ſervices, wild gooſeberries, figs, and almoſt all juicy fruits.

They are ſuppoſed to breed in Tartary, and to build their neſts in the holes of rocks.

They are of a gentle diſpoſition, but can only bear confinement for a ſhort time. One that was kept in a cage was ſilent all the while; it would never eat any grain, but frequently drank, dipping its beak in the water eight or ten times ſucceſſively.

They are very neat, always removing every thing that is diſagreeable to one corner of the cage.

The birds of this ſpecies are of a ſocial diſpoſition; they fly in flocks and ſeem much attached. The male and female careſs, and feed one another, and the ſame affectionate attentions ſeem to ſubſiſt amongſt the males towards the males, and likewiſe amongſt the females.

The Chatterer is very delicate food, its ſong is ſaid to be pleaſing, though it ſeems very little known.

Another

Another Chatterer, a variety perhaps of this ſpecies, is found in America. It has been obſerved that the breaſtbone of this bird is advantageouſly formed for cutting the air, from which it ſeems intended for diſtant migrations. It is found from Canada to South Carolina. The female has not the ſealing-wax-like ſubſtance on her wing.

THE POMPADOUR CHATTERER.

Its plumage is of a beautiful purple, the greater coverts of the wing are long, narrow and hollowed beneath, the tips without webs, hanging elegantly over the quills.

The birds of this ſpecies inhabit Cayenne in North America; are migratory, appearing in Guiana in March and September, the ſeaſons when thoſe fruits are ripe on which they feed; they frequent high trees by the water-ſide, and build their neſts on the higheſt branches. They never retire into the interior parts of the woods.

There are ſeveral other ſpecies of this beautiful genus inhabiting nearly the ſame countries, and probably reſembling thoſe which have been deſcribed in their manners; we will however mention one other ſpecies called the

CA-

CARUNCULATED CHATTERER.

It is about twelve inches in length, the plumage a pure white, the bill black, an inch and half in length; at the base is a fleshy substance, like that of the tur key, except that it is flaccid, and pendulous, when the bird is in a state of repose, but when it is agitated, this fleshy substance swells, lengthens to the extent of two inches, and becomes erect in consequence of the air which is forced into it through the opening of the palate. The cry of the Carunculated Chatterer is very loud, and seems composed merely of two syllables, *ang*, *ou*, pronounced in a drawling manner. It inhabits Brazil and Cayenne.

GENUS 71. LOXIA.

The beak is convex above and below, strong and very thick at the base.

The lower mandible inflected, with a lateral margin.

The tongue, as if cut off at the end.

THE COMMON CROSS BILL.

The two mandibles cross each other different ways, at the point; but it is very singular, that in some the lower mandible crosses to the left, and in

in others to the right; however awkward this conformation may appear at the firſt view, we ſhall upon reflection find, that it is judiciouſly adapted to their way of life, and very well contrived to ſeparate the ſcales of the fir cones, and to take out the ſeeds, upon which they principally feed. They place the lower mandible under the ſcale, and ſeparate it with the upper; it is remarked that they ſeldom break the cones in the trees on which they grow; by this means they diſſeminate or plant firs.

The beak is alſo very uſeful in aſſiſting them to climb; they uſe it for this purpoſe, almoſt in the ſame manner as Parrots. With one ſtroke of the bill they can ſplit an apple; this they frequently do in order to get at the pippins, the only part of the apple on which they feed; in confinement they will feed very well on hemp-ſeed.

This bird inhabits thoſe countries only where fir trees grow, and principally cold climates, or the mountainous parts of ſuch as are temperate.

It is found in Sweden, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, in the Alps, and the Pyrenean mountains; in theſe countries it reſides throughout the year. Sometimes the Croſsbills migrate in great flocks, and are found in England, and other countries;

countries; but these migrations are supposed not to be constant and regular, and may perhaps proceed from an accidental scarcity of that food of which they are fond, in those countries which they generally inhabit: or perhaps they may have been carried away by some storm of wind, for they have been observed to arrive in great numbers, and sometimes so much fatigued, as to be easily caught by the hand: a Crossbill has been found in Greenland, but it was probably accidentally driven there, as it could not in that dreary region have found its proper food.

Crossbills in this respect are said to differ from other birds, that they make their nests in the depth of winter, in the month of January, on the higher branches of fir trees; fastening them with the resin of the fir, and plastering them in such a manner with that substance, that the wet from the snow, or rain, can never penetrate. The corners of the mouth of their young, as in most other young birds, are yellow, and it is probable that the hen lays four or five eggs.

The colours of the plumage of these birds differ, in different individuals, scarcely any two being exactly alike; and the colours in the same bird frequently vary, from a dark blackish shade, to shades inclining to red, or green.

The

The plumage of the female is leſs bright than that of the male. It ſeems to be a very ſtupid bird, ſuffering itſelf to be approached, ſometimes ſo as to be killed with a ſtick. It ſcarcely flies away when it is ſhot at; and being as inactive, as it is unſuſpicious, it is often deſtroyed by birds of prey. In confinement it is ſilent, though in a natural ſtate its notes are very fine; it is eaſily tamed, and is good food.

This bird is very frequent in the fir woods near Bath, and at Barr in Staffordſhire at certain ſeaſons of the year.

THE GROSBEAK or HAWFINCH.

Its firſt quill feathers have each a ſpot of white about the middle of the inner web; the four outer quill feathers, ſeem to be cut off at the tips, in the form of a battle axe, and are bent at the end.

The tail is black, the two middle feathers inclining to aſh colour, and all the outer feathers have the end half white on the inner webs, and tips.

It inhabits the more ſouthern parts of Europe, and feeds upon the kernels of cherries, which it diſſeminates, it is injurious to gardens.

The Hawfinch is found in all the temperate parts of Europe, from Spain, and Italy, to Sweden.

In France, when the winters are very ſevere, theſe

these birds disappear for a short time. In the summer they frequent woods; and orchards in the winter. In Burgundy there are fewer in winter than in summer; they seem to arrive in numbers in April, they fly in small flocks, and perch in copses. They build in trees about ten or twelve feet from the ground; like the nest of turtles, theirs are composed of twigs of dry wood, fastened with small roots; they lay five eggs, blue, spotted with brown: as their numbers are not considerable, it is probable that they breed but once a year. They feed their young on insects, and chrysalis's; and if any attempt be made to rob their nests, they defend them with great resolution with their beaks, which being strong enough to break cherry-stones; enable them to bite very hard.

Besides fruit they eat many insects, but when confined they constantly refuse flesh. In their natural state they feed on almost all kind of grain, and on the kernels of fruit; on the seeds of firs, the mast of beech, on walnuts, and almonds.

Their hearing seems very imperfect, and they have very little note. They are not taken with a bird call.

When they are confined, it is proper to put them in cages, separate from other birds, for without appearing at all irritated, they are very apt

apt to deſtroy birds ſmaller than themſelves, by pinching out pieces of their fleſh with their bills.

They are migratory, and ſeen in England only occaſionally.

THE PINE GROSBEAK

Has two bars of white on the wings. On the head, neck, breaſt, and near the tail, the plumage is of a roſe coloured crimſon.

It inhabits foreſts of fir trees in Sweden, and Canada, and the pine foreſts of Invercauld in Aberdeenſhire, feeding upon the ſeeds in the cones, and diſſeminating the firs.

In the night it ſings very melodiouſly, and almoſt without ceaſing.

In the winter it migrates into the more ſouthern provinces of Sweden. The plumage of the younger inclines to a reddiſh, in the older birds to a yellowiſh caſt.

It makes its neſt on trees, at a ſmall height from the ground, with ſmall twigs and fibres, lined with feathers. The female lays four white eggs, which are hatched in June. The Pine Groſbeaks are taken about Peterſburgh in autumn, in great numbers, and brought to market; in ſpring they retire to Lapland.

THE

THE BULLFINCH.

Its legs, wings, and tail are black; the loweſt feathers of the tail, and the hinder wing feathers, white.

It inhabits the woods in Europe, and diſſeminates the ſervice trees. The male is red underneath, the female duſky aſh colour. They are frequent in Ruſſia and Siberia, and caught for the table.

It may be taught to whiſtle any tune, and ſeldom forgets what it has learnt; it will become ſo tame as to come when called, perch on its maſter's ſhoulder, and whiſtle a tune when commanded.

There have been ſeveral inſtances of their becoming quite black.

The female Bullfinch may be taught to pipe as well as the male. It has been ſaid, that a gentleman who had whiſtled ſome tunes to a Bullfinch, was very agreably ſurpriſed to hear the Bullfinch imitate the ſong, but introducing at the ſame time ſome elegant variations, which were ſo well executed, that the teacher acknowledged himſelf to be ſurpaſſed: Though on the other hand it has been obſerved, that a Bullfinch who had only heard ſome ploughmen whiſtle, learnt

to

to whiſtle in the ſame loud, and uncouth manner.

This ſpecies ſeems to be of an affectionate character, and capable of attachment: one which had been tamed, eſcaped from its cage, and lived in a wild ſtate for more than a year; upon hearing the voice of the girl who had taken care of it, it returned to her again. It is related that when they have been taken from thoſe who have been accuſtomed to feed them, that ſeveral have been known to pine away, and die of grief. There is a ſtory told of one that is hardly to be believed; his cage is ſaid to have been thrown down by ſome dirty and ragged people; the bird did not ſeem very much hurt at the time, but it never ſaw any mean, ſhabby perſon afterwards without being ſeized with convulſions, and at length died in one of theſe fits, about eight months after the accident.

The following inſtance is related of their affection to one another: four young Bullfinch's of the ſame neſt were reared together, the three ſtrongeſt, as ſoon as they could feed themſelves, aſſiſted in feeding the ſmalleſt, who was not yet capable of providing for itſelf.

The male and female, after the breeding ſeaſon is over, continue to fly together.

The Bullfinch is not uncommon in England, and makes its neſt in buſhes; it is compoſed chiefly of moſs; the eggs are of a blueiſh white, marked at the larger end with dark ſpots. They breed the latter end of May, and beginning of June.

In ſummer the bull-finch moſtly frequents woods, and retired ſituations; in winter, it haunts gardens and orchards, and is very deſtructive to the young buds. In Germany great pains are taken to teach theſe birds to pipe, and even to ſpeak, and many are imported therefrom.

THE CARDINAL GROSBEAK.

It has a beautiful red creſt, the beak is of a pale red colour; round the beak and on the throat it is black; the reſt of the plumage is a rich ſcarlet.

It inhabits North America, from Newfoundland to Louiſiana, and feeds upon maize, buckwheat, &c. of theſe it frequently collects a hoard, perhaps equal in quantity to a buſhel, and artfully conceals its magazine, with leaves, and ſticks, leaving only a ſmall entrance. The colours of the male are more beautiful, and vivid, than thoſe of the female. It is a hardy and vigorous

rous bird, eaſily tamed, and its natural notes are very pleaſing.

Indeed it is often called the Virginian Nightingale. They warble their melodious ſongs in the mornings of the ſpring, perched on the higheſt trees. They will ſing in a cage, and are frequently brought to England; in a ſtate of confinement, the male and female ſeem to harbour ſuch a reſentment, that they will often kill one another.

They ſeldom are ſeen in greater numbers than three or four. When tame, they will learn to whiſtle; but their natural note is ſaid not to be unlike that of the Engliſh Thruſh. In ſummer they haunt the ſwamps, in autumn retire to the ſouth.

The JAVA GROSBEAK or JAVA SPARROW.

The plumage is duſky, the temples white, the beak red.

It inhabits Aſia, and Ethiopia, frequenting plantations of rice, to which it is very deſtructive.

The plumage of this bird is exquiſitely delicate, both from the harmony of the colours, and becauſe it is ſo ſmooth, that it appears like velvet, or rather like that fine powdery bloom which is found on ſome plumbs.

This bird is often deſcribed on Chineſe paper.

THE GREEN GROSBEAK, OR GREENFINCH.

The plumage is of a yellowiſh green, the quill feathers are edged with yellow, the four outer tail feathers are yellow from the middle to the baſe.

It inhabits Europe, is not frequent in Ruſſia, and ſcarcely found in Siberia. In the winter it frequents woods, ſheltering itſelf from the intemperance of the weather, upon ever-greens, or amongſt the fading foliage of the oaks.

It makes its neſt in thoſe trees, and ſometimes in buſhes; the outſide is compoſed of hay, and ſtubble, the middle of moſs, the inſide of feathers, wool and hair.

The female lays five or ſix eggs, and ſits ſo cloſely, that ſometimes ſhe may be taken on the neſt with her young. The male occaſionally relieves his partner, ſitting upon the eggs in his turn; and amuſes himſelf at other times, by flying in little circles round the neſt.

Greenfinches are eaſily tamed, ſometimes they will eat out of the hand in five minutes after they are taken. To effect this, let it be carried into a dark place, and perch it upon your finger, it

will not attempt to move, not knowing on account of the darkneſs where to fly; bring then the finger of the other hand under its breaſt, raiſing the bird a little; from the uneaſineſs of its ſituation on the finger, on which it was firſt placed, it will climb on the other; if this be often repeated, and the bird be ſtroked and careſſed, it begins to loſe its fears; and if the light be let in by degrees, it will ſometimes immediately eat bruiſed ſeed out of the hand, and from that time become tame.

There are many other ſpecies of Groſbeaks.

The Grenadier Groſbeak inhabits St. Helena, and the Cape of Good Hope; frequenting watry places, and making a curious neſt among the reeds; it is conſtructed with ſmall twigs, curiouſly interwoven with cotton, and divided into two apartments, with one entrance; the upper apartment for the male, and the lower for the female. The neſt is of ſo cloſe a contexture, as to be impenetrable to the weather. The colour of this bird is a brilliant red; amongſt the green reeds they appear like ſo many ſcarlet lillies, which produces a very ſtriking effect.

The Fantail Groſbeak inhabits Virginia, and carries its tail ſpread in an horizontal direction.

The Philippine Groſbeak makes a moſt curious neſt, in the form of a cylinder, only ſwelling out in the middle. It is compoſed of the fine fibres of leaves, and ſuſpended from the extreme branch of a tree. The entrance is at the bottom, and after aſcending to the wideſt part, the proper neſt is made there, towards one ſide; here the ingenious little bird hatches her young in ſecurity.

Another Groſbeak very nearly reſembling the Philippine Groſbeak, makes a curious neſt in a ſpiral ſhape, like the ſhell of the Nautilus; and ſuſpends it from a ſlender twig, over the water, always turning the opening towards that quarter, where the leaſt rain may be expected.

The Abyſſinian Groſbeak's neſt is not leſs ingeniouſly contrived; it is ſuſpended like the others; its form is that of a pyramid, with an opening towards the eaſt; the cavity is divided by a partition; after aſcending a little way, the bird deſcends again into its neſt, on the other ſide of the partition, which by this means is ſecured from monkies, ſquirrels, and ſnakes, as well as from the

the rain, which in that country continues for months together.

The Penſile Groſbeak, which inhabits Madagaſcar, compoſes its neſt of ſtraw and reeds, interwoven in the ſhape of a bag, faſtened above to the twig of a tree, which overhangs the water. The entrance is from below, and the real neſt is placed on one ſide, within this curious contrivance. Every year the bird faſtens a new neſt to the end of the laſt, and five are often found hanging one from another. Like Rooks they build in ſociety, and five or ſix hundred neſts have been ſeen on one tree.

The Minute Groſbeak is only the ſize of a Wren, it inhabits Surinam, and Cayenne. They live in pairs, the male never forſaking the female. It is a ſprightly bird, frequenting lands that have been for ſome time uncultivated, and even approaching habitations. The neſt is about two inches acroſs.

Another ſpecies called the Coly, is placed by Linnæus among the Groſbeaks; its tail is wedge-form, like the tail of a Pheaſant.

GENUS 72. EMBERIZA.

The bill is ſtrong, and conic, the ſides of each mandible bending inwards; in the roof of the upper mandible is a hard knob, well formed for the purpoſes of breaking, and bruiſing hard ſeeds.

THE SNOW-BUNTING,

Like ſome other birds that inhabit cold climates, has a ſummer and a winter dreſs; in the ſummer the plumage is tawney, but at the approach of winter, the head, the neck, the ſtomach, and great part of the wings, become white. Linnæus ſays, they vary according to age and ſeaſon. They inhabit Greenland, Hudſon's Bay, Spitzbergen, and the mountains in Lapland. They ſeem to make the colder regions their ſummer reſidence, and it is wonderful when we conſider that they are graminivorous, at leaſt when they are with us, how they can ſubſiſt in Spitſbergen, where there is ſcarcely any vegetation, except of moſſes, and plants of that claſs.

In the winter they leave theſe dreary regions, and come to warmer climates, in amazing numbers; they fill the roads and fields in Sweden.

In

In the winter 1778, they came in such multitudes to one of the Orkney islands, as almost to cover it, yet scarcely any two agreed exactly in colour: they make the Feroe islands, Shetland, and the Orknies their resting places; they abound in the highlands in Scotland; their flocks are so great, and they fly so close together, that the fowlers destroy great numbers. When they first arrive, they are very lean, but soon become fat, and are a delicious food. In Scotland they are called Snow Flakes, and a few breed like the Ptarmigans on the highest hills. In their summer feathers, they are often seen in the south of England; now and then a milk white one is found. In Russia and Sweden, the flocks are immense; they frequent villages, some are white, some speckled, some brown, and even their winter dress seems as various, as their summer plumage; they are found also in Germany, where they are caught, and fed with millet, and are as delicious food as the Ortolan.

In the spring they are seen in vast flocks in Norway, and stay about three weeks: they then return to the dreary northern regions, in order to breed in security. They arrive in Greenland about April, build their nests in the clefts of rocks, in the mountains, in May; the outside is grass, it is lined with feathers, and the fur of the

arctic fox; the female lays five eggs, the male ſings melodiouſly near the neſt.

When they collect together in autumn, on the ſhores, in order to migrate, they are caught in numbers and dried, by the Laplanders, who take them in hair ſpringes.

THE ORTOLAN BUNTING.

The quill feathers are black; the three firſt feathers in the tail are whitiſh on their margin, the reſt black, the inner ends of the outmoſt feathers are marked with a great ſpot of white.

This ſpecies is migratory, and not found very far to the north; their winter reſidence is not very well known; they appear with the Swallows in ſpring, and ſing very pleaſingly in the night.

Their neſt is conſtructed without much art, they lay four or five eggs, and breed twice in the ſummer. When they firſt arrive, they are very lean. By epicures they are eſteemed a moſt delicious food. In order to be fattened they are confined in a room which is lighted by lanthorns; it is ſuppoſed that this uniform light, keeps them quiet, and that they fatten the better; they are fed with oats, and millet, until they become one

lump

lump of fat, and if they were not killed juſt at the proper time, they would die.

The Romans had aviaries built with great magnificence, and furniſhed with every convenience for the purpoſe of feeding Ortolans, and other birds; and the preſent Italians are in the ſame practice.

The YELLOW BUNTING, or YELLOW HAMMER.

The tail feathers are blackiſh, the two outer have a white ſpot on their inner web at the tip.

It inhabits Europe, and is very common in England. It builds a large flat neſt on the ground, in meadows, of hay and ſtraw, mixed with moſs, dried leaves, and ſtalks, very indifferently put together, and lined with hair, or wool. In the winter it frequents villages and barns; in the ſummer it deſtroys the larvæ of the common cabbage butterfly.

The RICE BUNTING.

The plumage is duſky, the back of the neck reddiſh, the ſtomach black, the tail feathers ſharply pointed.

The female is of a very different colour from the male, her plumage is grey, but her tail feathers are like the male's.

Theſe birds inhabits Cuba, and make great havock amongſt the rice plantations; for rice is their favourite food, when it is in its milky ſtate. In a very ſhort time they deſtroy whole acres of rice.

In autumn, after doing a great deal of miſchief in Cuba, the females migrate to Carolina; they paſs over the ſea in immenſe flocks, and are often heard by the ſailors in their paſſage. Their ſtay in Carolina is very ſhort, about three weeks, in that ſpace of time they become ſo fat, that when they are ſhot, they often burſt in the fall.

In the ſpring, both the male, and the female Rice birds, make another ſhort viſit to Carolina; ſome few ſtay there the whole year.

This bird was never known in Carolina until rice was cultivated there. By a wonderful inſtinct, they have followed this plant; in the ſame manner Sparrows have paſſed into countries, where they were unknown, until they became better inhabited, and corn was cultivated; and Partridges have continued to ſpread themſelves with the cultivation of corn, in countries where before they were utter ſtrangers.

It is not a century ſince rice was firſt introduced into Carolina, a ſmall quantity of ſome that was brought as a ſea ſtore, in a veſſel, was left in the

the bottom of a ſack, perhaps not more than half a buſhel; from this ſmall beginning, the immenſe quantities were produced, which we have for a long time been ſupplied with from South Carolina.

The Reed-Bunting, or Reed-Sparrow. This bird, as its name implies, frequents marſhy ſituations; it makes its neſt among the reeds, ſuſpended from four of them like a hammock, and a few feet above the water. The neſt is compoſed of the dry ſtalks of graſs, and lined with the down of reeds.

The male bird in the ſpring, ſings perched upon a reed, and by night as well as by day.

It inhabits England, and moſt parts of Europe, between Sweden, and Italy; but in many countries it is migratory.

The Whidah Bunting inhabits Angola, and other parts of Africa; by ſome it is called the Widow Bird. The two middle feathers in the tail are four inches long, very broad, ending in a long thread; the two next are about thirteen inches in length, broad in the middle, narrower at the ends, and pointed; and from the ſhaft of theſe, proceeds another long thread, the other

other tail feathers are little more than two inches long.

They moult in November; the male then loſes the long tail feathers, until the next moulting time in the ſpring: and from November, until June, is little diſtinguiſhed for the beauty of his plumage, or the ſweetneſs of his ſong.

Travellers report that the birds of this ſpecies make a curious neſt of two ſtories, the upper for the male, and the lower for the female.

The FAMILIAR BUNTING inhabits Java, it is of a gentle diſpoſition, and eaſily tamed. A gentleman ſaw one in a cage at Java, that was ſo fearleſs as to perch upon the hand.

When any perſon whiſtled to it, it ſung ſweetly in return, and if a diſh of water was preſented, it immediatly bathed itſelf. It was fed with rice.

GENUS 73. TANAGRA.

The beak is conic, a little inclining towards the point, at the baſe a little three ſided; pointed, and notched near the point.

The

The birds of this Genus inhabit in great numbers the warmer climates of America. There is a great reſemblance in their habits, and character, to the common Sparrows; like them they feed upon grain, fly low, and take ſhort, and interrupted flights; and are of a ſociable diſpoſition, approaching the habitations of men; but they excel them in the beauty of their plumage.

They frequent only dry ſituations, and lay but two, or at moſt three eggs at a time; but as they live in ſo warm a climate, they breed in every ſeaſon of the year; and thus compenſate for the ſmall number which they produce at a time, and this is indeed the caſe with many birds, that inhabit the torrid zone.

THE RED-BREASTED TANAGER.

Its plumage is moſtly black, the forehead, throat and breaſt red.

Theſe birds inhabit Cayenne, Guiana, Mexico, and other parts of America; feed on fruits, approach the habitations of men, and are generally ſeen in pairs.

Their neſt is of a cylindrical form, compoſed of leaves, and dried fibres; and ſuſpended from the branch

branch of ſome low tree, with an opening at the bottom.

THE RED TANAGER.

The general colour of its plumage is a pale red: The wings and tail, are black; the tail feathers are white at the points.

It inhabits Canada, and the woods near the Miſſiſippi. The ſong of this bird is very pleaſing. It makes a winter proviſion of Maize, which it conceals with great care, covering it with dry leaves, and only ſuffering a ſmall hole to remain for the entrance. It is ſo attentive to its treaſure, as never to go very far from it, except to drink.

The BLACK-CROWNED TANAGER ſeems an exception to the remark of Buffon, that the Tanagers are all of them American birds, ſince this is found in Aſia, in the neighbourhood of the Caucaſſian mountains, and at Teflis in Georgia. It builds its neſt in the branches of a tree, called the Chriſt's thorn, which being furniſhed with ſtrong, and ſharp ſpines, ſecures the brood from birds of prey.

The

The JACARINI TANAGER inhabits Brazil, frequenting land newly cultivated; its manner of hopping upwards, from branch to branch, firſt alighting on one foot, and then on the other, alternately, is very ſingular; every leap is accompanied with a little note, and at the ſame time it ſpreads its tail.

There are ſeveral other Tanagers, but not very diſtinguiſhable from thoſe already mentioned, in their manners, and character.

GENUS 74. FRINGILLA.

The bill in birds of this Genus is perfectly conic, (not like the Groſbeak's, rounded from the baſe to the point in each mandible, ſlender towards the end, and ſharp pointed.

THE CHAFFINCH.

The bill is of a pale blue, with a black tip; the inner and outer webs of the quill feathers, white on their lower parts, forming with other of the wing feathers three white lines, acroſs the wing. The outmoſt feather on each ſide the tail marked obliquely with white from the top to the bottom; the next has a white ſpot on the inner web, the reſt are black.

Chaffinches inhabit all parts of Europe, and ſome parts of Africa: In England they are very common,

common, continue all the year, frequenting our court yards. In Sweden, the females migrate to the southward, and return again in the spring; the males stay all the year; and even in Hampshire flocks of females only, have been observed; at least from their plumage they have been supposed to be so; but when we consider that the seasons occasion an alteration in the colours of some birds, there may be reason to suspect that this may be the case with the Chaffinches: Indeed this seems more probable, than that the females should separate from the males of the same species, to migrate into another country, when they might subsist as well as the males, in those climates where they were native. Their nest is curiously constructed of fibres of plants, and moss, neatly lined with hair, wool, and feathers. They build in bushy shrubs, or trees well cloathed with foliage, artfully concealing it, and lay five or six eggs. The male is numbered among our song birds, though its notes are not very melodious; it has been remarked that when a Chaffinch has accidentally lost its sight, it sung more constantly than before; and this has induced some inconsiderate persons, to be guilty of the cruelty of closing their eyes, by burning the eyelids with a hot wire; this occasions them to inflame, and unite together;

together; thus to amuſe a thoughtleſs perſon with an indifferent ſong, a poor bird is condemned to perpetual blindneſs.

The beak of the Chaffinch is very ſtrong; they are lively birds, and in conſtant action; they are not often perched, but run upon the ground; they live moſtly upon grain and ſeeds, and feed their young with inſects and caterpillars.

THE BRAMBLING.

They inhabit woods in Europe; at certain ſeaſons they migrate into England, in vaſt flocks; and are occaſionally ſeen with Chaffinches. In France they often fly together, in immenſe numbers, and ſix hundred dozen have been taken in one night. They make their neſts on tall fir trees, with moſs on the outſide, lined with wool, and feathers; their eggs are four or five in number.

They feed on beech maſt, and various ſeeds.

THE GOLDFINCH.

The bill is white, tipp'd with black; the baſe ſurrounded with rich ſcarlet feathers; the cheeks are white, the top of the head black; the back is brown. The quill feathers black, marked in the middle with a rich beautiful yellow; the

the tips of the quill feathers white. The tail black, but moſt of the feathers have a white ſpot near their end.

They inhabit Europe, and are found but in ſmaller numbers, in Aſia, and Africa.

This beautiful bird, however, diſtinguiſhed for the richneſs of its plumage, intereſts us as much from the agreeableneſs of its ſong, and the docility of its character.

Its flight is low, but generally regular, continued, and in one direction, not up and down, and by ſtarts, like the Sparrow's.

The neſt of the Goldfinch is very round, firm, and neatly executed, much reſembling that of the Chaffinch; it is generally built on a fruit tree, on a ſlender branch; ſometimes they build in buſhes, and have generally two broods in a year. They are very careful of their young, and feed them with caterpillars, and inſects. In a cage they are fed with hemp-ſeed, in a ſtate of liberty they eat many kinds of grain, and are particularly fond of the ſeeds of thiſtles, and of turnips.

The Goldfinch may be made to breed with a female Canary bird; their offspring reſembles the Goldfinch, with reſpect to the head, and wings, and is capable of producing; but not their deſcendants.

ſcendants. The Goldfinch is a very active bird, and in an aviary always endeavours to rooſt on the higheſt perch.

Their docility is very ſurpriſing; they have been taught to dance, to counterfeit death, to fire a little cannon, to move a ſmall litter, to open a box in which their food is kept, and to draw up a little bucket of water out of a glaſs ſuſpended at ſome diſtance below their cage.

Their ſong is pleaſing; they begin to ſing in the month of March, and continue all the ſummer. Bird-fanciers pretend that the Goldfinches in Kent, excel thoſe of every other county.

They are ſubject in confinement to epileptic fits.

THE CANARY-BIRD.

The beak is whitiſh, the body a yellow inclining to white. The wing and tail feathers are of a green caſt.

It inhabits the Canary iſlands, feeding principally upon the ſeeds of the phalaris, or canary ſeed; in confinement it will eat hemp, flax, and rape ſeed; it breeds with the Goldfinch, and their young are fertile, but not in the ſecond generation.

Of this very intereſting bird there are many varieties; the natural conſequence of its being domeſticated,

domeſticated, and bred in confinement. Some are grey, upon a ground of yellowiſh white, in others the plumage is of a brilliant yellow, in others again of a mealy colour. Some are diſtinguiſhed by a creſt, in others the eyes are red; amongſt theſe a number of other combinations take place, ſo that near thirty varieties have been deſcribed.

Great numbers of theſe birds are imported every year from Germany, particularly from Tirol, and though the Germans who deal in them carry them a thouſand miles upon their backs, yet they are ſold as low as five ſhillings each. At Inſpruck they are a little article of commerce, from that town they are ſent to ſeveral parts of Europe, and in conſiderable numbers to Conſtantinople. They are bred very generally in England, for this purpoſe they ſhould be provided with a cheerful chamber, furniſhed with boxes, or little buſhes formed of twigs of birch, or heath, to build their neſts in; and little nets filled with fine hay, moſs, feathers, down, flax, and goat's hair, ſhould be hung in different parts of the room; it is very proper to have fewer males than females, that the male birds may not diſturb the females, which ſometimes they are apt to do, and occaſionally to break their eggs.

They

They ſhould be fed at this time with turnip ſeed, oats, millet, and hemp-ſeed.—The day before the female is expected to hatch, ſhe ſhould be ſupplied with ſcalded food, and eggs boiled hard; but all green vegetables muſt be avoided, becauſe they would weaken the young. Sometimes a little bread moiſtened with water will be a very proper food.

When they are ſeparated from their young, they ought to be ſupplied with plantain, and lettuce ſeed, in ſmall quantities.

In the management of Canary-birds, it is poſſible to do too much; we ſhould never loſe ſight of nature; in their wild ſtate they frequent ſtreams, we ſhould therefore let them have a conſtant ſupply of water, that they may occaſionally bathe themſelves.

There are ſeveral diſorders to which they are ſubject; ſometimes they die in conſequence of eating to exceſs, ſometimes in moulting: young Canary-birds are liable to a complaint in their inteſtines, which become inflamed, and diſtended: this is a common, and generally a fatal complaint, ariſing from too great a quantity of food, or from its being too moiſt. Some indiſpoſitions to which they are ſubject, proceed from want of neatneſs. The pip is another complaint; the bird afflicted

afflicted with it is dull, the feathers are ruffled, and the body appears enlarged, the head drawn in, or concealed beneath the wing. When these symptoms appear, it is proper to examine if there be not a little pimple near the tail; this often breaks of itself; sometimes the bird presses it with its bill, and by breaking it, effects a cure.

Like many other birds in a domestic state, it is attacked by epileptic fits. Such are the unhappy effects of confinement.

The cares and attentions which we bestow on these pretty warblers, are amply repaid by their song. They are the domestic Nightingales, filling our houses with their delightful melody.

The Canary-bird has a very nice ear, a strong memory, and great powers of imitation; it may be taught the song of the Nightingale, or the Lark, or to pipe a tune like a Bullfinch.

Its manners, and character, are extremely interesting; it contributes to the amusement of the young, it enlivens solitude, and recals to us in our chambers the pleasing impressions of the melody of the groves. The Canary-bird will live in confinement if properly attended to, from ten, to eighteen years.

A female grey Canary-bird that escaped from its cage, paired with a Common Sparrow, and produced

produced a brood in a bird-pot which was placed againſt a houſe.

Near Paddington, in Bedfordſhire, ſome Canary birds have been ſeen in hedges, in a wild ſtate; they had probably eſcaped from an aviary. The Engliſh Canary-birds have moſtly the Wood-lark's ſong, thoſe from Tirol that of the Night-ingale.

THE SISKIN.

On the middle of the wing feathers is a band of an olive colour, the tail is a little forked, the two middle feathers inclining to black and edged with olive colour, the reſt are yellow tipp'd with black, and edg'd with grey.

The throat is duſky in the male, in the female white.

The Siſkin inhabits Europe, frequenting thoſe parts that abound with juniper. It viſits theſe iſlands at uncertain times, but generally in barley ſeed time; from whence it is called in Suſſex the Barley bird. It is ſold in the bird ſhops in London, under the name of the Aberdavine, but has no very pleaſing ſong. The neſts of this ſpecies are concealed with great art, for though there are many of the young birds in the woods, on the banks of the Danube, that ſeem but juſt able to fly, their neſts are ſeldom to be found. Siſkins run along on the

under part of the branches of trees, like the Titmouse species, with their backs downwards.

The Siskin will breed with the Canary-bird.

THE RED-HEADED LINNET.

The breast is tinged with a fine rose colour, is has a bar of white on the wings. The quill, and tail feathers, are black, edged with white.

They inhabit most parts of Europe, breed in the north of England, and are often seen in flocks on the sea-coast.

This Linnet easily pairs with the Canary; there are few birds more deserving our attention from the beauty of their plumage, the melody of their song, or the agreeableness of their character. A gentleman pair'd a male bird of this species, with a female Canary bird, which had been accustomed to be released every day from its cage, but to return regularly for its food, and to roost. She made her nest in a neighbouring bush, and brought her young ones with her to the window to feed. They had the mealy plumage of the Canary-bird, but the rose-coloured breast of the Linnet.

In a domestic state, this Linnet loses the beautiful colours of its head and breast; it is very capable of imitation, and there was one at Kensington who having been taken in the nest, and brought

brought up where there was a little child, learnt to articulate the words pretty boy, from having heard them frequently addreſſed to the infant by its nurſe.

Linnets frequently build in vines, in gooſeberry buſhes, and nut-trees; the neſt is compoſed of roots, leaves, and moſs on the outſide, and lined with wool; they breed in May, July, and Auguſt; about the latter end of that month, they collect together in companies, and live ſo during the winter. They fly very cloſe to one another; riſing, and alighting together, and perching upon the ſame trees. In the ſpring, they generally rooſt on oaks, or trees which are not deſpoiled of their withered leaves, often ſinging in concert; they feed on flax, which their name implies, on hempſeed, thiſtles, and many other ſeeds; but in confinement hempſeed is too nouriſhing a food, it fattens them to ſuch a degree, as to prevent their ſinging, and to deſtroy their health.

The Linnet frequently ſhakes the duſt amongſt its feathers, and ſhould be ſupplied in confinement with ſand for that purpoſe, and water to bathe in. With a pipe, or bird organ, it may be taught to whiſtle tunes; it is very capable of attachment, and ſeems by its animation to ſhew its affection to thoſe who ſupply it with food.

The LESSER RED-HEADED LINNET much reſembles the laſt ſpecies.

It is gregarious, the neſt has been found on an alder ſtump, near a brook, about two or three feet from the ground; it was conſtructed on the outſide with dried ſtalks of graſs, and other plants, intermixed with wool; the lining was hair, and feathers. The bird was ſitting on four eggs, and ſo attached to her neſt, as to ſuffer herſelf to be taken in the hand, when releaſed ſhe did not forſake it.

Their plumage is not ſo beautiful as that of the laſt ſpecies.

They inhabit moſt parts of Europe, but in ſome they are migratory; they appear in Germany in October, and leave it in February. Like the Titmouſe, they run along the under parts of the branches of trees.

They become very fat, and are a delicate food.

THE RING SPARROW

Is grey, with white eye-brows, the throat clay colour'd.

It inhabits Europe, principally Germany, and Italy.

It feeds on ſeeds, and inſects; but ſeems a tender bird, being often found dead in ſevere winters, in the hollows of trees.

The CUBA FINCH.

The plumage is of a purpliſh caſt, acroſs the breaſt it has a purpliſh cheſnut colour'd band.

Theſe birds inhabit the iſland of Cuba, and uniting in conſiderable flocks, are very deſtructive to rice plantations: indeed they are common to both the continents; and found in the Eaſt as well as the Weſt Indies.

The COMMON SPARROW.

The wing and tail feathers are duſky, the body is grey and black, the cheeks are white; under each eye is a black ſpot, and a band of white on the wings. The male is diſtinguiſhed by the black on his throat.

The Common Sparrow is ſo well known, that a particular deſcription of his colours would be unneceſſary; though in this ſpecies there are ſome varieties, the effect perhaps of accident; for ſome have been found white, ſome varied with brown, and black, ſome black, and others yellow.

In Lorraine Black Sparrows are frequently found, but the colour perhaps may be only external, and the effect of ſmoke, ſince there are many glaſs-houſes there, which they frequent, hence their feathers may be diſcoloured.

The Sparrow is never found in any places that are far from the habitations of men; they do not frequent woods, or large extended plains; but like rats, eſtabliſh themſelves about our houſes, in order to ſubſiſt at our expence. They infeſt the corn in the Orknies by thouſands, but were unknown in Siberia, until the Ruſſians attracted them by the cultivation of corn.

As they are very indolent, and very greedy, it is upon the labours of others that they wiſh to ſubſiſt; they frequent our barns, our corn ricks, our poultry yards, and dove houſes; they follow the labourer when he ſows, the mowers during the harveſt, the threſhers in the barn, and obſerve the poultry when they are fed. They even pierce the crops of young Pigeons to take out the grain, and prey upon bees, an inſect peculiarly uſeful to us. Of all birds they are the moſt miſchievous, and yet of all the moſt difficult to deſtroy, or to remove. Nothing will diſlodge them from the places they frequent. They are cunning, timid, difficult to be deceived; they eaſily detect traps,

traps, and give great trouble to thoſe who attempt to catch them, and even then almoſt every effort is in vain, for they breed three times a year, and if you deſtroy their neſt, in two days they will make another; if you break their eggs, in ten days, they will lay again; if you ſhoot at them when they are upon the roof of the houſe, they only conceal themſelves the better in your barns.

Thoſe who have kept Sparrows in cages, ſay that a pair will conſume near twenty pounds weight of corn, in a year; we may judge from hence how deſtructive they muſt be. It is true they feed their young very much on inſects, and that they themſelves deſtroy many inſects, yet grain ſeems to be their favourite food. On account of the miſchief they do, a price is ſometimes ſet upon their lives, in many villages; in ſome parts of Germany, every year, each peaſant is obliged to produce the heads of a certain number of Sparrows.

Yet however miſchievous they may ſeem, as Providence has made no animal whatever but to produce ſome good, we may be aſſured that the Sparrow anſwers ſome deſirable purpoſes.

Mr. De Buffon attempted to deſtroy them by burning ſulphur, mixed with ſome roſin and char-

coal under the trees where they roosted, but in vain; they only at first perched higher in the trees, and afterwards flew upon a roof at some distance.

Sparrows are easily tamed, and brought up in a cage, they may even be taught when young something of the song of other birds; though they are easily made familiar, yet they do not naturally associate together; they are generally alone, or in pairs, though they sometimes plunder in companies.

They generally build under the tiles, in the roofs of houses, in thatch, in holes of walls, under the eaves, in the corners of windows, and sometimes even in trees.

When they build in trees they make a little covering to their nest, to keep out the rain; some again too indolent to make nests of their own, build in the old nests of rooks, and drive the pigeons from their boxes. They often take possession of a Martin's nest. It is said that the Martin, sometimes resenting the injury, brings clay, to stop up the entrance, and so bury the Sparrow alive.

THE TREE SPARROW,

The quill and tail feathers are dusky, the body is grey and black, there are two white bands on their wings, and a large black spot near each ear.

It inhabits most parts of Europe, and is frequent in Lancashire, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire.

It lives in the country, frequents highways, perches upon shrubs, and low bushes, and builds its nest on trees.

Tree Sparrows prefer an open country, they are less numerous than Sparrows, and probably do not breed so often; they assemble in flocks at the close of summer, and remain together during the winter.

This bird is almost always in motion, when he is perched he is continually moving, turning, raising, and dropping his tail.

It is much less mischievous than the Sparrow, not destroying much corn, but preferring fruit, and wild seeds. It perches on thistles, and eats their seeds, and often preys on insects. The song is nothing extraordinary. It lays about four or five eggs.

The FRIZZLED SPARROW.

The plumage is of an olive colour. The under part of the body yellowiſh, its head is black and many of its feathers frizzled.

It is ſuppoſed to inhabit Angola, or Brazil.

There are many other ſpecies of the Genus Fringilla, but thoſe mentioned are the moſt remarkable for their plumage, and their manners.

Genus 75. MUSCICAPA.

The bill of the Fly-Catcher Genus is flatted at the baſe, almoſt triangular, notched at the end of the upper mandible, which bends towards the point; and beſet with briſtles.

The noſtrils roundiſh.

This is a Genus related a little to carnivorous birds, apparently more innocent, and perhaps quite as uſeful. They are in fact birds of prey, though they abſtain from fleſh, and are not injurious to fruit, or grain, living upon flies, and gnats, and other inſects.

Some

Some of them approach in ſize to the Butcher bird, others are ſmaller than the Nightingale.

There is no melody in their notes, their character is ſavage, and ſolitary. They are ſeldom on the ground, as their ſubſiſtance is in the air, they are moſtly ſeen upon trees, which they have little inducement to quit.

In cold countries there are but few ſpecies; as their food conſiſts of inſects, it is natural to ſuppoſe that they ſhould exiſt in the greateſt numbers in warm climates; in Europe the ſpecies are few, more numerous in Aſia, and in America, they are conſiderably multiplied.

THE PARADISE FLY-CATCHER.

The head and creſt are black, the body white, the tail long and wedge form like the tail of a pheaſant, the middle feathers are very long.

It is found at Senegal, the Cape of Good Hope, and at Madagaſcar. It frequents the mangrove trees on the ſolitary parts of the banks of the rivers Senegal, and Gambia, feeding upon inſects.

The FORK-TAILED FLY-CATCHER,

Has a long forked tail, the plumage of its back black, beneath white.

It inhabits Canada, and Surinam, and is about the ſize of the creſted Lark; it is ſeen continually flying down from trees in the neighbourhood of plains that are covered with water, alighting upon the little hillocks, or the plants that ſwim on the ſurface, and flirting its tail continually, like the Water Wagtail.

The CRESTED FLY-CATCHER.

The neck is blue, beneath yellow, the back greeniſh, the wing and tail feathers a reddiſh brown.

It breeds in Carolina, and Virginia, retiring in winter to a warmer climate; its cry is very diſagreeable; it aſſociates with no other bird, and ſeems of a ſavage, and ſullen character.

Its neſt is made of ſnakes ſkins, and hair, in holes of trees.

The RED-EYED FLY-CATCHER.

The plumage is olive colour, more light coloured beneath. The eyebrows are white, and the eyes red.

It inhabits Carolina, but migrates into Jamaica at the approach of winter, where from its singular note it is called Whip Tom Kelly. It generally builds in apple trees, suspending its nest from between the fork of some bough, amongst the leaves. The nest is pendulous, and curiously formed of cotton and wool, lined with hair, and dead grass, and ingeniously bound to the branches by a moss-like thread, twisted round them, and about the outside of the nest.

The CAT FLY-CATCHER.

Its plumage is dusky above, ash coloured beneath, the head black, the under part of the tail dirty red.

This bird inhabits New-York and Carolina; frequenting bushes and thickets; its note resembles the mewing of a kitten, from this it takes its name. It has great courage, and will assail a crow, or almost any bird, however larger than itself.

Insects are its favourite food. The outside of its nest is made with leaves, and matting rushes, the inside with fibres of roots.

The

THE SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER.

The plumage on the back is of a mouſe colour; beneath whiteiſh; the neck is ſtreaked; the feathers under the tail are of a reddiſh caſt.

This bird is migratory; it arrives in April, and leaves us in September; it frequents woods, ſeeking ſolitary, and ſheltered ſcenes, though ſometimes it infeſts our orchards, and is very deſtructive to cherries; on this account in Kent, it is known by the name of the Cherry Sucker.

It ſeems a melancholy, and rather a ſtupid bird; building its neſt without any appearance of concealment, againſt trees, or upon buſhes. Their neſts are clumſily made, and not always with the ſame materials, ſometimes with moſs only, and ſometimes with wool, and large fibres of roots intermixed.

They chiefly feed on inſects, and collect them on the wing. They ſeldom alight upon the ground, or uſe their legs in running; but perched upon a branch, or poſt, watch the inſects as they are flying near, ſpring after them, and again return to their place.

THE FAN-TAIL FLY-CATCHER,

Inhabits New Zealand; it is a very familiar bird, and is eaſily tamed; it will then ſit upon any

any perſon's ſhoulder, and pick off the flies as they alight, or purſue them as they are paſſing by, ſpreading its tail as it flies, like a fan.

THE PURPLE THROATED FLY-CATCHER,

Inhabits Cayenne, and other parts of America; collecting together in flocks, they generally precede the Toucan; they feed on fruit, and inſects; they are lively birds, in almoſt conſtant action, frequenting the woods, and frequently repeating a ſharp cry, like the word Pihauhau.

THE TYRANT FLY-CATCHER,

Is claſſed by Linnæus among the Butcher birds. It has a black bill and head, the crown divided lengthways by a ſtripe of ſcarlet, orange, or yellow; the back is aſh colour, the tail black tipt with white.

The Tyrant builds its neſt of moſs and roots, without concealment, on ſhrubs and buſhes, ſometimes on the ſaſſafras; it appears in Carolina and Virginia, in April; breeds there, and retires at the beginning of winter. Its courage is ſurpriſing; it attacks, and chaces away every bird of whatever ſize, that approaches the ſpot which it inhabits. None eſcape his fury, none attempt reſiſtance, when he aſſails them on the wing; for it

it is only whilſt they are flying, that he makes his attack.

Mr. Cateſby ſaw one fix itſelf on an Eagle, and perſecute him ſo, that the Eagle turned upon his back, and put himſelf into a variety of poſtures as he flew, but in vain; at length he alighted upon a tree, and kept perched there until the little tyrant left him through fatigue.

Whilſt the female ſits, the male perches upon a buſh, or ſhrub, near the neſt, and chaces away any little bird that approaches; but if a large bird, an Eagle, Hawk, or Crow, come within a quarter of a mile, immediately he makes his aſſault, and drives it to a diſtance. When his young are flown, his impetuoſity ceaſes, and he becomes as peaceable as other birds.

THE CHATTERING FLY-CATCHER.

Inhabits the interior parts of Carolina, two or three hundred miles from the ſea; it lives by the banks of great rivers, and ſcreams ſo loud that the noiſe is reverberated from rock to rock. It is ſo ſhy, that the fowler with difficulty can approach it; it flies with its legs hanging down, and often riſes perpendicularly, and alights by jerks.

There

There are many other ſpecies, but little diſtinguiſhed by their habits, from theſe mentioned, or remarkable for their plumage.

Theſe birds, as well as Swallows, Nightingales, &c. which feed on inſects, are of eſſential ſervice to man.

Without their aſſiſtance, we ſhould be aſſailed by myriads of inſects; we ſhould be tormented by their bites and ſtings; they would devour the produce of our lands, defile our proviſions, which in vain we ſhould endeavour to preſerve; they would infeſt our chambers, and diſturb our reſt; for ſo rapid is their multiplication, that our attempts to deſtroy them, could ſcarcely be ſucceſsful. To this uſeful tribe of birds, we are indebted for our deliverance; by their means inſects are kept in ſuch a degree of ſubjection, as only to conſume that which is ſuperfluous, and which without their help would become offenſive.

The advantages we have derived from our little deliverers during the ſummer, we feel in autumn; towards the cloſe of that ſeaſon, they leave us to fly to milder climates, in purſuit of the inſect food, which they ſeem to have a pre-ſentiment is ſoon to fail them here.

During the interval between their departure, and the firſt froſts, inſects increaſe in abundance, myriads of gnats infeſt the air, and their rapid multipli-

multiplication would be severely felt, did not the friendly frosts of winter, deliver us again from their devastation.

GENUS 75. MOTACILLA.

Pennant has divided the Genus Motacilla, (and with reason,) into two Genera; the one he calls the Wagtail, the other the Warbler. We shall observe his example, so far, as to arrange this Genus under two divisions.

DIVISION THE FIRST. THE WAGTAIL.

The birds of this division have a weak slender bill, slightly notched at the tip.

The tongue is jagged at the end.

The legs are slender.

Their tails are long, and frequently in motion.

They frequent the sides of brooks, and are almost constantly running; they seldom fly; but when they do fly to any distance, it is in an undulatory, or wavy direction; they rarely perch, their nests are on the ground, and they make a twittering noise as they fly.

THE WHITE WAGTAIL.

The bill, head, neck, chin and breaſt are black. The forehead, cheeks, and ſides of the neck are white, the two outer tail feathers obliquely marked with white.

It inhabits Europe, is migratory, appears early in the ſpring, frequenting villages, and conſtantly flirting its tail.

The Swediſh farmers ſay, when you ſee the Wagtail return, you may put your ſheep into the fields; when you ſee the wheat-ear, you may ſow your grain. So uſeful is the information we may acquire, by obſerving the animal creation. In England the Wagtail continues all the year, but in the winter it moves from the North to the South.

The Wagtail is a very ſmall bird, but his long tail makes him appear much larger than he really is. As he flies he ſpreads his tail, which is a conſiderable ſupport, and enables him to turn, to gambol, to riſe and fall in the air.

Wagtails run lightly along the ground, moving very nimbly, cloſe to the edge of the water; and ſometimes they juſt ſtep into the little wave, formed by the water as it ſpreads on the ſhore; but they moſt frequently flutter upon the dams of mill pools, or frequent the ſides of ſhallow ſtreams, hopping

hopping from ſtone to ſtone; approaching familiarly the women who may be employed there in waſhing, ſporting around them, and picking up the crumbs which they may let fall.

They make their neſts upon the ground, under roots; or more frequently by the water ſide, near piles, that have been driven down to keep up the banks.

The neſt is compoſed of dry graſs, ſmall roots intermixed with moſs, negligently made, and lined either with feathers, or horſe-hair. The female lays four or five white eggs, ſpotted with brown; and has ſeldom more than one brood in a year. Upon the approach of danger, both male and female flutter before the enemy, as though they intended to miſlead; but if their young ſhould be taken, they follow the ſpoiler, flying above his head, in circles, and calling to their young in the moſt melancholy tones.

When their young are hatched, they attend them with the greateſt care.

They keep the neſt perfectly neat, removing every thing that would be dirty, and diſagreeable: a gentleman placed ſome little pieces of white paper near their neſts, which they carried away to a diſtance, as though it were diſpleaſing to them.

When

When the young are able to fly, their parents ſtill attend them for three weeks or a month, feeding them plentifully with inſects, and ants eggs. They ſeem always to eat in great haſte, ſcarcely giving themſelves time to ſwallow the worms, flies, and gnats, which they catch. They are conſtantly riſing, and wheeling in the air, to take inſects; when they fly it is by jerks, up and down; whilſt they are flying we often hear their note, but more frequently perhaps juſt as they have narrowly eſcaped a bird of prey.

They are not much afraid of man, and even after they have been ſhot at, they fly but a little way, and return again; they may like the lark be taken by a net, and looking glaſs.

In France they are migratory birds. In autumn they aſſemble together among willows, by the ſides of the water, or on the roofs of mills, or other ſituations near the water; they are then remarkably ſprightly and ſportive, twittering to, and purſuing one another; at length by common conſent, they all fly away together, to warmer climates; and in the winter it is ſaid they are found in Egypt, and at Senegal, which are both in Africa.

They conſtantly attend the plough, to pick up the worms.

At

At Barr in Staffordſhire, a Water Wagtail that frequented a houſe, by being occaſionally fed with crumbs and pieces of meat cut very ſmall, grew tame, and continued there the whole of the winter, for ſeveral years; he frequently flew upon the window cills to ſearch for dead flies, which ſometimes fell from the joints and crevices upon opening the window.

THE YELLOW WAGTAIL.

The breaſt and ſtomach are yellow, the two outer tail feathers obliquely ſtreaked with white, the throat is ſpotted with black in the male, the crown and upper part of the body are of an olive green.

In the winter, the yellow Wagtail, when the common Wagtail is gone, approaches villages, and ſeeks its food by ſtreams of water, that are not frozen, and ſhelters itſelf under the banks of rivulets: In that dreary ſeaſon, if the cold be not extreme, its gentle warbling is heard; it is in a low key like the autumnal ſong of the common Wagtail, and very different from the ſhrill note which it utters when it riſes on its wings. In the ſpring the yellow Wagtail makes its neſt in meadows, and ſometimes in copſes, at the root of a tree, near a rivulet, and in cornfields. The neſt is placed upon the ground, and built with dry graſs, or moſs,

and ſtems of plants and fibrous roots on the outſide, lined with feathers, or horſehair within; and more neatly conſtructed than that of the white Wagtail. They lay ſeven or eight eggs, of a dirty white, ſpotted with yellow. After the hay harveſt, the parent leads them amongſt flocks of ſheep. Then they live on flies, and gnats. Whilſt they frequent the water ſide, they feed on worms; ſometimes they ſwallow ſeeds, and even beetles have been found in their ſtomach.

The tail of this bird is longer than its body; and like the white Wagtail it frequents rivulets with pebbly beds, perching upon the ſtones; though ſome ſtay all winter, yet many ſeem to migrate, for they are not ſeen in ſuch numbers then, as in the autumn amongſt flocks of ſheep.

It migrates in the north of England, but continues in Hampſhire all the year.

This laſt ſpecies is called in France La Bergeronette, from their habit of frequenting flocks of ſheep; they follow them in the fields, mix with them as they graze, and perch occaſionally on their backs. They ſeem fearleſs of, and familiar with the ſhepherd, flying before him, and in ſome countries act the part of a ſentinel, by appriſing him of the approach of the wolf or of birds of prey.

Yet

Yet though fearleſs of man, they are incapable of confinement in a cage: deprived of liberty they pine, and die. Sometimes they have been known to fly on board a ſhip at ſea, to familiariſe themſelves with the ſailors, and only quit the ſhip when it reached its port.

SECOND DIVISION OF THE MOTACILLA, OR THE WARBLER,

Their bills are ſlender and weak.
The noſtrils ſmall, and ſunk.
The outer toe united beneath the laſt joint, to the middle toe.

The Warblers are very different from the Wagtails, and very properly placed under a different diviſion.

For the moſt part they perch on trees; proceed by leaps, and not by running, ſeldom twittering as they fly.

They are very numerous, and inhabit the warmer regions, where inſects abound; inſects being their principal food.

THE NIGHTINGALE,

Its plumage is of a reddiſh aſh colour, with bands of aſh colour on the legs. It inhabits thoſe parts of Europe that are ſhaded with woods, ſinging in the evenings of the ſpring, with amazing powers, for ſo ſmall a body; and falling ſometimes a victim to emulation, in ſong.

The Nightingale is a bird not very generally diſperſed; there are none in Africa, and in ſeveral parts of Europe, and even of England, they never appear. Some writers aſſert, that there are none in Devonſhire, or Cornwal, or to the north of the Trent, except near Doncaſter in Yorkſhire, nor in ſome parts of Holland, Ireland, Scotland, or the northern parts of Wales; though they viſit Sweden.

In England, France, Italy, Germany, and Greece, they are only birds of paſſage; it is ſuppoſed they retire into Aſia, as they are found there in Perſia, China, and even in Japan, where they are much eſteemed for their ſinging, and ſold for a conſiderable price.

Indeed they are every where migratory birds; and this diſpoſition ſeems ſo implanted in them, that thoſe who are confined in cages, are very much agitated, and reſtleſs, at the uſual periods of their migrations. This inſtinct ſeems to act

in them, at leaſt independent of cold, or want of nouriſhment, ſince in a cage, the temperature muſt be always nearly the ſame, and their food generally in equal abundance.

The Nightingale is not originally an American bird; there are ſome in the northern parts, theſe may have migrated from the north eaſtern parts of Aſia, where a very narrow ſea divides the Continents. The ſong of the Nightingale in Canada, is ſaid to be much inferior to the ſong of the Nightingale in Aſia, or Europe, and their ſong in Scotland, to their ſong in Italy; indeed a ſcarcity of food, and a cold climate, materially affect the ſinging of birds.

As the male Nightingale paſſes much of the night in ſinging, it has been ſuppoſed that they never ſleep in the ſummer ſeaſon; and with equal folly, that the heart and the eyes of a nightingale placed under a pillow, would prevent the perſon from ſleeping who lay upon it: it is right to mention theſe follies, in order to expoſe and contradict them. Attentive obſervers find that in the ſummer ſeaſon, Nightingales ſleep occaſionally in the day, and in confinement they have been obſerved to dream, and to warble in their ſleep in a low voice.

When

When in a cage they bathe themſelves after they have ſung; they have been obſerved to do this immediately as candles were lighted. It may be well to mention another effect of light upon them; a Nightingale who ſung very well having eſcaped from his cage, inſtantly flew into the fire, and was burnt.

Nightingales, at leaſt the males, have a habit of raiſing, and ſinking their bodies alternately, ballancing themſelves on their perches, and both males and females raiſe and let fall their tails.

Nightingales conceal themſelves in the thickeſt buſhes, they frequent hedges, and low coppices, they feed on aquatic and other inſects, on worms, on the eggs or larva of ants, ſome fruits and berries. They are not ſuſpicious, but ſo much the contrary, that they are taken in a variety of ways: they may be attracted by the ſong of birds, by a fine voice, and even by diſagreeable noiſes, for they ſeem fooliſhly inquiſitive; they wonder at every thing that is new, and are often the dupes of their curioſity; they are taken with birdlime, with traps, ſnares of various kinds, and ſpringes. Sometimes they abound in particular places. Once in a dry ſeaſon, in the neighbourhood of the Foreſt of Ardennes, which is in the Netherlands, the ſhepherd's boys have

each caught near twenty in a morning: they reſorted to thoſe parts of the foreſt where the water was not dried up.

Thoſe who take them are very careful not to injure their feathers, leſt it ſhould delay their ſong; for whilſt they are moulting, they are always ſilent. Sometimes to haſten the time of their ſinging, the feathers are taken out of their tail, that the new ones may grow again the ſooner.

Nightingales are ſaid to be very nice food, when they are fat.

In Gaſcony they are ſometimes fattened for the table; ſo wanton a deſtruction of a bird whoſe ſong is ſo melodious, recals the depraved, the cruel, and extravagant fancy of Heliogabulus, a Roman Emperor, who feaſted on the tongues of Flamingoes, Peacocks, and Nightingales.

The plumage of the Nightingale is not beautiful, the upper part of the body is of a reddiſh brown; the throat, breaſt, and ſtomach of a whitiſh grey. Nightingales that are bred in the ſouthern countries, have a darker plumage; and thoſe bred in northern countries a lighter plumage.

The tongue of the Nightingale is very remarkable, the end is furniſhed with threads, and ſeems as though it had been cut off.

But the Nightingale's ſong gives it a ſuperiority over every other bird; the force, and the melody of its powers, are equally aſtoniſhing. So ſmall a bird that does not weigh more than half an ounce, can fill the compaſs of a mile with its ſong.

In the fine nights in the ſpring, when the weather is ſerene, and all nature ſeems as it were huſhed in ſilence, this inimitable ſongſter fills the grove with a melody, which ſeems to unite the excellencies of all other ſinging birds, and in effect far exceeds them: he begins with a ſlow and gentle warbling, at firſt low, and half pronounced, as though he were trying his powers; by degrees his notes riſe, he becomes more and more animated, and loud, and diſplays ſuch a combination of melody and powers, his notes are ſo various, ſo voluble, ſo ſoft, his tones ſometimes ſo plaintive, gently dying away, at others ſo full, ſo animated, and expreſſive, and the whole ſo varied, and wonderfully combined, that it is impoſſible to conceive ſound more melodious, or more intereſting. The pauſes in his ſong produce a wonderful effect, they give us time to enjoy thoſe ſounds whoſe impreſſions are ſtill left upon the ear; we ſoon with the ſong to be repeated; and ſoon we hear another combination of

melody, are varied, and though different, as pleasing as the former.

One reason perhaps that the song of the Nightingale produces so wonderful an effect, may be, that it sings in the night, when its warbling is uninterrupted by other sounds.

Nightingales begin to sing early in April, and seldom sing after June; their song is suspended by the attentions they are obliged to give to their young.

In confinement the Nightingale sings nine months in a year; and the song is still more perfect than that of Nightingales in their natural state. They will sometimes sing in a few hours after they are taken, generally in seven or eight days; not that they are regardless of the loss of their liberty, for at first they are sullen, and refuse to eat, and would die of hunger if food were not put into their beaks, or kill themselves by striking against the wires of their cage, if their wings were not tied. Soon, however, they become more tamed, they delight in singing, are charmed with musical instruments, and a fine voice. Their emulation is raised by other birds; and it is said that by their exertions they have fallen down dead in their contests.

All Nightingales do not ſing equally well, there are many that connoiſſeurs will not keep; they imagine too that the Nightingales in ſome countries, and even in ſome provinces, ſing better than in others.

In England a Nightingale from Surry, is ſuppoſed to be ſuperior to a Nightingale of Middleſex, which is the next county.

Indeed it is aſſerted, that there is as great a difference in the ſong of birds of different counties, as in different dialects.

It is poſſible that a Nightingale may have improved his ſong, by hearing other birds; in that caſe he will teach his ſong to his young; for every Nightingale is muſic maſter to his little ones; and ſuch accidents, in many generations, may produce conſiderable effects.

Female Nightingales have been known to ſing, but their ſong is inferior to that of the male.

An attempt has been made to write the notes of a Nightingale, and afterwards to play them on an inſtrument, but without effect. Their ſong has been much better imitated by the human organs. Some time ſince, a man in London ſucceeded in his imitation ſo well, as to make Nightingales perch upon him, and ſuffer themſelves to be taken by his hand.

In ſome inſtances theſe imitations ſeemed to require great effort.

The Nightingale is frequently caught, and tamed, for the ſake of his ſong: but great attentions are requiſite to ſucceed; his cage ſhould be painted green, and ſhaded with boughs; moſs ſhould be placed under his feet, and he ſhould be plentifully fed with a kind of food that he likes; in ſhort he muſt almoſt be deceived with reſpect to his confinement: in this caſe the tame Nightingale will ſing almoſt conſtantly, except during the moulting ſeaſon, and his ſong will be ſuperior to that of the wild Nightingale, for he will embelliſh it with the excellencies of the ſongs of other birds. They may be taught, to ſing in parts, and perhaps even to ſpeak, but many of theſe accounts are much exaggerated; ſuch for inſtance is the ſtory that is told of ſome canary birds belonging to the ſons of the Emperor Claudius, which it is ſaid ſpoke Greek and Latin, and every day learnt new phraſes, and ſome not very ſhort, to amuſe their maſters.

There is a very wonderful ſtory of two Nightingales mentioned by Geſſner, which it is much more amuſing to read, than eaſy to believe; he quotes a letter, written as he profeſſed to ſuppoſe, by a gentleman of veracity; which relates that

that one night as the gentleman lay awake at an inn in Ratisbon, he heard two Nightingales in cages, conversing together about the politics of Europe, that they repeated the conversation at night which they heard in the day, and kept up a long and interesting dialogue, on a variety of subjects.

Nightingales in time, attach themselves to those who have the care of them; one that was given to a gentleman, no longer seeing the lady that was used to feed it, grew sullen, refused to eat, and was soon reduced to that state of weakness, that he could no longer support himself on his perch; but having been restored to his former mistress, his animation revived, he eat, drank, returned to his perch, and was well in twenty-four hours.

They have been known to refuse the liberty that has been offered them, and when they have been turned out of their cage, in the woods, they have returned again.

When once they are attached, they distinguish the step of the persons used to feed them, flutter at their approach, and even when moulting make some attempts to sing, and supply that defect by every expression of joy.

In confinement when young, they are fed with a compoſition of ſheep's heart, crumb of bread, hempſeed, and parſley, perfectly mixed together, and chopped very ſmall; it muſt be made freſh every day; afterwards egg boiled hard, and mixed with crumb of bread, and parſley, the whole minced ſmall.

Another compoſition which ſhould be their general food, when they are full grown, is made of two pounds of lean beef, half a pound of grey peas, half a pound of yellow or purled millet, ſome white poppy ſeed, and ſweet almonds; a pound of honey, two ounces of flower, twelve yolks of eggs, two or three ounces of butter, and a dram and a half of ſaffron, the whole dried by a fire, reduced into a fine powder, and paſſed through a ſieve; this will keep a long time.

With theſe compoſitions, a Nightingale has been kept ſeventeen years in a cage; at ſeven years of age he began to grow grey, at fifteen, his wing and tail feathers were white; his knees were much enlarged; he had knots on his toes like gouty perſons, and it was neceſſary occaſionally to file the point of his upper mandible; but he ſeemed to feel no other inconveniences from old age; he was always cheerful, and careſſing.

It is said, that warm drugs, and perfumes, excite the Nightingale to sing; that meat, and garden worms are good for them, when they are too fat; and figs when they are too lean; that spiders are physic to them, and very proper in April, and that half a dozen are a dose. When they have fed on any thing that disagrees with them, they bring it up like birds of prey, in little round balls.

Nightingales are solitary birds, they not do migrate in flocks, but arrive singly in England, in April, or May, and return in that manner about August or September.

They pair soon after their arrival, and then they suffer no other of their species within a certain distance; and it is supposed that this distance is determined by the greater, or less plenty of food, and that where their proper food abounds, their nests are nearer each other.

They begin to build their nest about the beginning of May; it is composed of leaves, rushes, blades of grass, very coarse on the outside, with small roots, fibres, horse-hair, and a kind of down in the inside; it is generally exposed towards the east, and built on the lower branches of shrubs, such as gooseberry trees, white thorn, sloes, &c. or on a tuft of grass, and sometimes on the ground, so that the Nightingale herself, and the

young ſometimes, become the prey of dogs, foxes, weaſels, polecats, and ſnakes.

The female lays five eggs, ſits very cloſe, and only leaves her neſt in the evening, when preſſed by hunger; whilſt ſhe is abſent, the cock ſeems to watch the neſt. In eighteen or twenty days the young are hatched. The number of males is ſaid to exceed the number of females, ſo much, that if by accident the cock ſhould be killed, the female would ſoon be ſupplied with another, ſo that the young birds would not ſuffer.

The female, like the female Canary Bird, feeds her young with food that ſhe brings up out of her own ſtomach; the father aſſiſts in the care of the young, and then it is that he ſeldom ſings: probably that he may not diſcover the neſt; though if it ſhould be approached, he does not practice any of that artifice which ſome other birds employ to miſlead, but oftentimes betrays it by his fears, and his cries.

In fifteen days the young are fledged.

In Auguſt, the old and the young Nightingales leave the woods, and frequent buſhes, hedges, and fields lately ploughed, perhaps in order to procure a greater plenty of worms, and inſects.

If an attempt be made to rear young Nightingales, it will be beſt to take thoſe of the firſt hatch, and

and their beſt inſtructor will be an old Nightingale.

The HANG NEST.

Upper part of the body a duſky green, beneath duſky orange, a black line above and beneath the eye.

It inhabits America, and makes a curious pendulous neſt.

The HEDGE SPARROW.

Above a duſky grey, the coverts of the wings white at the points: The breaſt a blueiſh aſh colour, or ſlate colour.

It inhabits Europe, not farther north than Sweden; lays four or five pale blue eggs.

In England the Hedge Sparrow is very common all the year, in France it is a bird of paſſage; it comes in autumn, and leaves that country in the ſpring. They travel in companies, and alight in hedges, flying from buſh to buſh. The neſt is built very low in garden hedges, or ſome ſmall buſh, or ſometimes upon the ground; it is compoſed of moſs on the outſide, of wool, and horſe-hair within; it lays five eggs of a light blue colour, and without ſpots. If a cat or any other animal ſhould approach its young, like the Partridge,

tridge, or Lapwing, in order to miſlead, it would flutter juſt before its enemy, counterfeiting lameneſs, till it had drawn it to a conſiderable diſtance from the neſt.

During the breeding ſeaſon it has a remarkable flirt with its wings.

The Hedge Sparrow in the ſeverity of winter, approaches barns, and threſhing floors, in order to pick up corn, but this is not its natural food, it feeds on chriſalis's, plant lice, and other inſects.

The Hedge Sparrow is not ſuſpicious, and may be caught in almoſt any trap, he may eaſily be tamed, and by ſome is valued for his ſong, though it is not any thing extraordinary, it is plaintive, and he ſings often at a ſeaſon of the year when other birds are ſilent. It is generally towards the evening that they ſing the moſt; they begin with the firſt froſt, and continue till a little time in the ſpring.

A gentleman in France put a Hedge Sparrow into an aviary, with Canary Birds, Linnets, and Goldfinches; a Canary Bird ſeemed to take an affection to it, and never quitted it; they were taken out, and put into a cage together, but made no neſt.

THE REED WARBLER'S

Plumage is a reddiſh brown, beneath of a light reddiſh colour, the head ſpotted.

It inhabits Europe, and the bog ruſhes in Sweden.

It is the ſize of a Wren, very lively, quick, and gay; it has a ſong, which though but little varied, ſtill is not diſagreeable, and may be improved. It ſings in the winter; in the ſpring it returns to the woods, and builds a neſt there of green moſs, lining it with wool, and lays five eggs. The young ones are eaſily reared, and their little ſong, and ſprightlineſs, is very intereſting. A gentleman who had brought up ſome in an aviary, gave all his birds their liberty in the ſpring; theſe were the laſt that left it; they were afterwards frequently attacked by wild birds of their ſpecies: when thus perſecuted, they flew to the window cills, as it were for protection, and there defended themſelves, ruffling their feathers, and fighting the wild ones like game cocks.

THE KRUKA WARBLER

Is duſky above, whitiſh beneath; tail-feathers duſky; each outer one ſtriped with white on the outer web.

It inhabits Sweden, and all parts of Ruſſia, but not Siberia; and ſings in the night.

This

This bird is heard almoſt inceſſantly in the ſpring; it is often ſeen to riſe ſtrait above the hedge, whirl round in the air, and deſcend, ſinging always the ſame lively little ſong, which it continually repeats, ſo that it has been called the prater.

One ſees it conſtantly flirting, reſtleſs, entering into the buſhes, hopping about them, without ever perceiving it ſtill for one moment. It makes its neſt in hedges by the road ſides, in places the moſt concealed, near the ground, and even in tufts of graſs which grow in the bottoms of buſhes.

It feeds upon inſects, eſpecially thoſe caterpillars that are found upon the leaves of ſhrubs, and buſhes: as it frequents our gardens, groves, and the neighbourhood of houſes, it is already in part familiarized, and may be eaſily tamed; is ſometimes kept in a cage for the ſprightlineſs of its ſong; it is neceſſary to let it have water to bathe itſelf, otherwiſe it would die in moulting.

PETTY CHAPS.

The plumage greeniſh aſh colour, beneath yellowiſh; ſtomach inclining to white, or ſilvery; tail duſky; inſide of the mouth red, eyebrows white.

Inhabits Europe as far north as Sweden.

This

This ſprightly little bird appears early in the ſpring; as ſoon as the leaves begin to open, and the bloſſoms to appear, they diſperſe themſelves through the country: ſome frequent our woods and groves, and others our gardens; they animate every country ſcene, by their ſprightlineſs and gaiety. There is nothing pleaſing in their plumage, which ſeems to be the caſe with moſt of thoſe birds whoſe manners are ſprightly, or whoſe ſong is melodious.

They frequent gardens, and fields that are ſown with peas; they build their neſts upon the riſers that ſupport theſe plants, and are continually going into and out of them; they are in conſtant action, ſporting with, watching, and purſuing one another; their little quarrels ſeem without reſentment, and are always ended by a ſong.

Notwithſtanding their gaiety, they are far from inconſtant; and the affection of the parents towards each other, ſeems to continue after the breeding ſeaſon is over.

Whilſt the female ſits, nothing can be more attentive and aſſiduous than the male. The neſt is compoſed of dry graſs, filaments of hemp, and horſe-hair. The female lays five eggs; ſhe forſakes them if they are touched, and it is impoſſible to deceive her by putting others in their room,

room, she immediately discovers, and throws them out. Yet it is said, that in the nest of this bird the cuckow frequently lays its egg, and that she attentively fosters its young.

The Petty Chaps is of a timid disposition, flies away from birds as small as itself, and is very justly afraid of the Butcher Birds, its formidable enemy. The moment the danger is past, it seems entirely to forget it, and all its former gaiety returns.

It generally sings perched among the most tufted foliage of a tree; sometimes for a moment it shews itself on the outside of a bush, and instantly hides itself again amongst the leaves.

In the morning it bathes itself in the dew upon the leaves, or after slight showers in the summer.

As they feed principally on insects, they leave us in autumn, though there are some berries upon which they will feed.

SEDGE BIRD.

Plumage, ash colour, white beneath, with white eye-brows. Head brown with dusky streaks, tail brown, and circular when spread; toes sulvous and yellowish.

Inhabits Europe, is frequent in Russia, and Siberia, among the willow thickets, near the rivers.

This

This bird is ſometimes called the willow Nightingale, becauſe it ſings in the warm and clear nights in the ſpring; it makes its neſt among the reeds, in buſhes, amongſt marſhes, or in the thickets that over-hang the water. The neſt is compoſed of ſtraw, dry graſs, and lined with horſe-hair, and conſtructed with great ingenuity: The female lays five eggs, of a dingy white, ſpotted with brown.

The little ones, before they are feathered, will throw themſelves out of the neſt if any body touches, or even comes very near them, though the neſt be built immediately over the water.

This bird darts from among the reeds to purſue the dragon fly, on which it feeds, and it drives away all other little birds from its immediate neighbourhood.

It is an entertaining mock bird; it ſits concealed in willows, or reeds, and imitates in a pleaſing, but hurrying manner, the Swallow, Sky-Lark, and Houſe-Sparrow. It ſeems to leave us before winter.

The WHITE THROAT.

Plumage aſh colour above, white beneath, the outer tail feather half white all the length, the ſecond white at the tip.

A neſt

A neſt of the White Throats was found on a plum-tree about three feet from the ground, in the form of a cap, compoſed of moſs, interwoven with bents of dry graſs. Sometimes it is built entirely of graſs coarſer without, and finer within; White Throats lay five eggs of a greeniſh grey, with red and brown ſpots.

In countries where figs, and olives grow, it feeds on thoſe fruits. It frequents our gardens in ſummer, and leaves us in winter. It is a ſhy, and wild bird, and ſings with an erected creſt.

THE EPICUREAN WARBLER.

The plumage rather duſky, white beneath; the breaſt ſpotted with aſh colour. Inhabits Europe, but moſtly the ſouthern parts.

It migrates into the more northern parts later than other birds of this Genus, and leaves them ſooner in the ſummer; they are found in Germany, and Poland, and as far north as Sweden; in autumn they return to Greece, and Italy; and in winter probably go to ſtill more ſouthern climates. Their manners, and food, ſeem to change with the climate: in the north they feed much on inſects, in warmer countries chiefly on fruit during the ſeaſon, as grapes and figs.

In

In southern countries they arrive in flocks, in temperate climates they are dispersed in the woods; their nests are so artfully concealed, that it is very difficult to find them; they perch high in trees, and warble very prettily. The plumage is not beautiful, but they are a most delicate food, and almost equal to the Ortolan. They fly by jerks; they walk, but do not hop, and run along the ground in France among the vines. They leave France about August, migrating in little companies of five or six. They are caught with nooses, by nets, and by means of a looking-glass.

They are taken in great numbers in Provence, and the islands in the Mediterranean. When Cyprus belonged to the Venetians, these birds were an article of commerce; 1200 jars filled with them, preserved with vinegar, and aromatic herbs, have been annually sent to Venice, and nothing can be more delicate when they are fattened upon grapes and figs.

THE WHEAT EAR.

The back grey, tinged red; the forehead white; a black band from the bill to the hind part of the head; the extreme of the body, and upper part of the tail white, the tail-feathers black at the tips.

The female has not the black band near the eye.

It

It Inhabits warm, and ſtony places in Europe; making its appearance when the cold winter nights are paſt.

This ſpecies is found from the ſultry climate of Bengal, to the dreary regions of Greenland; it is migratory in the temperate and frigid zones. In Greenland it frequents rivulets, and feeds on worms among the graves; for this reaſon it is abhorred by the natives. In Sweden the farmers conſider it as the harbinger of ſpring, and that it points out to them the time they may with ſafety ſow their corn.

Wheat Ears are very common in England; they come in the ſpring from March to May; the females arrive a fortnight before the males: They frequent commons, and warm downs, and the ſides of hills, thoſe eſpecially that are fenced with ſtone walls, perching upon the little tufts of earth.

In ploughed grounds they follow the furrows to pick up worms, on which they feed; when diſturbed they do not riſe high, but ſkim with a ſhort, but rapid flight, near the ſurface of the ground; and ſoon alight. In flying, the Wheat Ear diſcovers the white part of his tail, and the white feathers at the end of his body. He is often ſeen in barren, and in fallow ground, flying from ſtone

ſtone to ſtone, ſeeming to avoid hedges and buſhes, upon which he alights much leſs ſeldom than on ſtones.

The beak is fine at the point, but wider at the baſe, conſequently well conſtructed for ſeizing, and devouring inſects, on which they dart continually. They almoſt always keep on the ground, and if diſturbed, perch only on low buſhes. When they alight, they twitter, and flirt their tails. In ground lately ploughed, or near little tufts, or under ſtones in fallow land, or between the ſtones of which they make fences in ſome countries, they build their neſt. It is curiouſly conſtructed of moſs, or fine graſs on the outſide; of feathers and wool, rabbits down or fur, and horſe-hair in the inſide. It is remarkable for a kind of ſhelter placed above the neſt, and faſtened to the ſtone, or hillock, under which the neſt is made. The female lays five or ſix eggs; and ſits ſo cloſe as ſometimes to loſe the feathers from her breaſt. The male attends her with great affection, bringing her flies, and ants, and always keeps near the neſt. If he obſerves any perſons approaching, he flies before them, alighting every now and then, as though to divert them from the neſt; and when he judges them at a ſufficient diſtance, he takes a compaſs, and returns

turns to his ſituation. Wheat Ears ſeem impatient of cold; and if any ſevere froſts happen after their arrival, it is fatal to many. They prefer high, and dry ſituations. When they are fat, they are delicate food. They are taken in great numbers in hair nooſes, by the ſhepherds about Eaſtbourn in Suſſex. The ſhepherds cut out a turf, and lay it along by the ſide, and over the trench, made by the removal of the turf; leaving only a little hollow, in which the nooſe is placed; the Wheat Ear with a view to find worms and perhaps to hide itſelf, goes into the nooſe. The appearance of a bird of prey, or the ſhadow of a cloud, are ſufficient to frighten him into this ſuppoſed ſhelter; the number taken in that neighbourhood every year, amounts to 1840 dozen: the reaſon why they are ſo numerous there is becauſe that ſituation abounds with a certain fly, which for the ſake of the wild thyme frequents the adjacent hills. They migrate in Auguſt or September, and go in little flocks; they are naturally ſolitary, for they diſperſe as ſoon as they arrive, the male and female only aſſociating together. They feed on inſects, and earth worms.

THE

The WHIN CHAT.

Plumage a ruſty brown ſpotted with black, a white line over each eye, a broad patch of black beneath, and covering the temple in the male, of brown in the female; two white ſpots on the wing. The throat and breaſt yellowiſh, two middle feathers of the tail black, the reſt white at the bottom, black at the tip.

It inhabits Europe as far north as Spitſbergen.

The Whin Chat ſeldom perches, but is moſtly upon the ground, upon little hillocks, in fallow lands. The female lays four or five eggs, and builds her neſt at the bottom of a buſh, amongſt the roots, or on the ground, where it is ſheltered by a ſtone. This bird is of a wild nature, it arrives and departs with the Stone Chatter, and frequents mountainous ſituations; it feeds on flies and other inſects, and when fat is as delicious food as the Ortolan.

The STONE CHAT.

Plumage grey, red beneath, a white band under the throat, the ſpaces between the beak, and eyes, black.

This ſprightly, active bird is ſcarcely ever quiet; almoſt continually hopping and fluttering from buſh to buſh, he only repoſes for a few moments, and even then he ſeems ſpreading his wings, as though meditating another flight. He riſes into the air by ſhort and ſudden efforts, and falls, turning round like a wheel.

The Stone Chat never flies very high, or perches upon trees, but generally alights upon the higheſt ſpray of a hedge, or a buſh. He is eaſily taken with bird-lime, from his habit of preferring any ſingle twig which projects beyond the reſt. He frequents dry ſituations, high fields, or extenſive commons: ſometimes he perches on the ears of Indian wheat in the fields, or on the higheſt props in the vineyards.

This bird builds its neſt on waſtes, or commons, at the bottom of a buſh, amongſt the roots, or under the cover of a ſtone, or ſometimes fixes it to the ſide of a rock, but ſo ſuſpicious is the character of the Stone Chat, that it retires there in a moſt artful and cautious manner, as though afraid of being ſeen: it never goes immediately into the neſt, but firſt flies into a buſh at ſome diſtance; when it leaves its neſt it walks a little way from it, and comes out of a neighbouring buſh, ſo that if you ſee the bird enter haſtily any little thicket, it is not there, but at ſome little diſtance, you muſt ſeek for its neſt.

The female lays five or ſix eggs, both parents feed their young with inſects, which they are bringing them almoſt perpetually. Their cares, and attentions, ſeem increaſed when their young are able to leave the neſt, they are repeatedly call-

ing to, and ſtill continue to feed them for ſeveral days.

In confinement, the character of this bird ſeems quite altered; he becomes dull and ſtupid, incapable of learning any thing; he is kept alive with great difficulty, and to no purpoſe.

A Stone Chat that had been taken ſhewed great reflexion; the cage in which it was confined was placed in a garden amongſt ſhrubs, in broad day, and the door opened; it inſtantly flew upon the outſide of its little priſon, and there remained a minute before it attempted a ſecond flight, diſtruſting as it were the appearance of liberty.

In their natural ſtate they ſuffer you to approach near, flying only to a little diſtance, not ſeeming to ſuſpect the fowler's intention.

There is a bird in Provence which lives very much upon ants, for which the Stone Chat has been miſtaken; but the Ant-eater ſeems to be a ſolitary bird, frequenting only decayed houſes and ruins. In cold weather, he places himſelf on the tops of chimnies for warmth; he frequently lies at the opening of an ant hill, ſtopping it with his body, ſo that the ants who attempt to get out are engaged in his plumage; he then flies away to a bare ſpot, and ſhaking his feathers, the ants fall out upon the ground, and become his prey. It is moſt pro-

bable that this bird is not a Stone Chat, but he may belong to another ſpecies of the Motacilla.

The Stone Chat, when fat, is delicious food, and nearly equal to the Ortolan.

THE BLACK CAP.

The crown of the head is black, hind part of the head pale aſh colour; back and coverts of the wings greyiſh olive; breaſt and ſtomach light aſh colour: crown of the female dull ruſt colour.

It is one of the ſmalleſt of this genus.

This bird has not the black crown until after the firſt moulting, before that time the young birds reſemble young Fig Eaters; from whence it was once ſtrongly imagined, that Fig Eaters were ſometimes metamorphoſed, or changed into Black Caps.

Its ſong is very pleaſing, not unlike that of the Nightingale, and it is of much longer continuance; for, many weeks after that delightful warbler is ſilent, the ſong of the Black Cap ſtill make the groves muſical.

Their notes are eaſy, natural, and pleaſing; not conſiſting of any great variety, yet they are agreeable, and ſeem expreſſive of the happineſs and tranquility of the ſurrounding ſcene. The male has a thouſand attentions for the female while

whilſt ſhe ſits; indeed, he ſhares that care with her, and is continually bringing her flies, worms, and ants.

The neſt is built near the ground, in a buſh carefully concealed, and contains four or five eggs, of a greeniſh colour, with light brown ſpots. It has been found in a ſpruce fir, compoſed of gooſe graſs, moſs, and wool, lined with horſe hair.

The young ones grow very faſt, and when they are ſlightly fledged, they leap out of the neſt, and abandon it, if any perſons approach.

This bird arrives in the ſpring, and if after its arrival occaſional froſts ſhould make the inſects diſappear, it has ſtill a reſource in ſeveral kinds of berries.

The Black Cap may be tamed, and in confinement few birds can be more intereſting; it ſhews the moſt engaging affection for its maſter; at his approach it flies againſt the wires of the cage to meet him, and by its gentle notes, and the fluttering of its wings, expreſſes gratitude and attachment.

The young birds who are brought up in confinement, if they have opportunities of hearing the Nightingale, acquire its ſong; but in September, which is the time of their migration, they

ſhew all thoſe ſymptoms of uneaſineſs, which migratory birds generally feel at that ſeaſon.

The Black Cap is found commonly in Italy and France, ſometimes in England, and as far north as Sweden.

THE RED START.

The head and back are of a bluiſh grey; the cheeks and throat, black; the ſtomach and tail red, except the two middle tail feathers, which are brown.

The ſong of the Red Start has neither the compaſs or the variety of the Nightingale's, but it has an expreſſion of tenderneſs and melancholy, which is exquiſitely pleaſing; for this reaſon, and this only, it is called in France, the Nightingale of the Wall, for it has neither the form, nor the habits of the Nightingale, nor its plumage.

The Red Start arrives in the ſpring, perching upon towers, upon the roofs of houſes, and on chimnies, from whence is heard his ſoothing ſong. He always ſeeks the moſt inacceſſible ſituations; he is found too in the ſhades of the gloomieſt foreſts; he flies lightly, and when perched, has a little cry, which he repeats, moving his tail with a kind of tremulous motion, not up and down, but from one ſide to the other, like a dog when it fawns. This bird prefers mountainous countries.

They

They build their nests in holes of walls in towns, and in the hollows of trees in the country, or the fissures of rocks. The female lays four or five, or six blue eggs; the young are hatched in May. The male during the time of incubation sings from the point of a rock, or the top of some building near the nest; it is, especially, at the dawn of day, and early in the morning that he repeats his song.

The Red Start is a shy, suspicious, and sullen bird, apt to abandon its nest if it be observed, and it is said to forsake the eggs, and even the young if they are touched; if caught, it cannot be tamed, but obstinately refuses food, and dies.

These birds from the nest may be reared in confinement; they will sing delightfully in the day, and sometimes in the night, and improve their natural song if placed among better songsters than themselves. The tame Red Start is fed with crumbs of bread, and the same composition that is given to the Nightingale.

When unconfined they feed on flies, spiders, chrysalids, ants, berries, and tender fruits; in Italy on figs.

In their migrations they preserve their solitary character, they go alone, and are never seen in flocks.

THE GREY RED START.

The beak and quill feathers ash colour, the stomach and tail feathers rust colour, the two outer feathers ash colour.

The Grey Red Start is a migratory bird, it arrives in May, and immediately retires into the woods to pass the summer: it builds in little bushes near the ground; the nests are made with moss on the outside, and lined within with wool and feathers, resembling a globe, with an opening towards the east. According to Buffon the female lays five or six eggs; according to Pennant nine.

In the morning it comes out of the woods, returns there during the heat of the day, and in the evening appears again in the neighbouring fields, seeking for worms and flies; it retires to the woods at night to roost. The Grey Red Start has no song, only a little twittering note; in general he is very silent; he often perches upon a single twig, which grows out beyond the root, flirting his tail like the Red Start. When fat, he is delicious food: his flight is very short, only from bush to bush. These birds go away in October; they are seen some days before to follow one another along the hedges.

Some

Some grey Red Starts have a black band round their necks, and their plumage is more brilliant; these are supposed to be the males.

THE BLUE THROATED WARBLER.

The breast ferrugineous, with a blue band, the tail feathers dusky, ferrugineous towards the base.

This bird, except in colour, very much resembles the Robin Red-breast; it frequents the borders of woods, marshes, and moist meadows, willow beds, and reeds, and with the love of solitude that distinguishes the Red-breast during part of the year, it seems to have the same familiarity with man; for, after spending the summer in these retired situations, in the autumn, it frequents hedges, avenues, and gardens, and suffers you to approach near enough to beat it down with a sarbacan; a sarbacan is a hollow tube, or cane, through which peas, &c. are blown.

Seldom more than a pair of the Blue-throated Warblers are seen together. At the close of the summer they resort to corn fields, and sometimes make their nests there, but more generally upon willows, osiers, and plants, that grow in

marſhy places; their neſts are compoſed of graſs, and fixed to the forks of branches.

In the breeding ſeaſon, the male riſes ſtraight in the air a little way, ſinging; he turns round, and ſo alights again upon the branches with a great deal of ſprightlineſs and gaiety. The Blue Throated Warbler ſings in the night, and ſome think the ſong pleaſing, by others it is little eſteemed; but it has been obſerved in ſeveral ſpecies of birds, that the ſong of thoſe of the ſame ſpecies differs at different ſeaſons of the year.

It loves to bathe itſelf, and keeps very much near water; it feeds on worms and inſects, and runs very nimbly, flirting its tail.

The fine colours of this bird loſe their luſtre when he is in a ſtate of confinement.

This ſpecies is not very common; it is found in the mountainous parts of Europe, in the Alps, the Pyrenean Mountains, and in Sweden.

THE BLUE RED-BREAST.

Blue above, red beneath, the ſtomach white, the quill feathers black at the point.

Its wings are very long, and its flight rapid; it is of a gentle diſpoſition, feeds on inſects, and makes its neſt in the hole of a tree.

The Blue Red-breaſt inhabits the Iſland of Bermuda and South America; it is harmleſs, and familiar.

It is in America what the Robin Red-breaſt is in England. The Blue Red-breaſts frequent fields where maize and mulleins grow, perching on their ſtalks in order to pick off the flies; frequently they are ſeen on rails, ſpringing at flies as they paſs.

THE CERULEAN WARBLER.

Blue above, white beneath; the wings and tail are black, the outer tail feathers are white.

It inhabits Pennſylvania.

The females begin in April to build their neſts; the outſide is compoſed of lichen, the inſide is lined with the fine down of plants, and between the moſs and the down is a layer of horſe-hair; the form of the neſt is cylindrical, cloſe at bottom, open at the top.

THE SYBIL.

Plumage blackiſh, white beneath, breaſt a duſky red, a white ſpot on the wings.

It inhabits Madagaſcar, and ſings delightfully.

THE RED-BREAST.

Plumage a kind of olive colour, the throat and breaſt a deep orange red.

It inhabits Europe, feeds on the ſeeds of the ſpindle tree, ſings excellently, is quarrelſome, and conſequently ſolitary; its fearleſſneſs of mankind has occaſioned it every where to be diſtinguiſhed by a familiar name. The Engliſh call it Robin Red-breaſt; the Danes, Tommi Liden; the Norwegians, Peter Ronſmad; the Germans, Thomas Gierdet. In ſeveral parts of Europe Red-breaſts are birds of paſſage; in general they ſpend the ſummer in the woods, and at the cloſe of the year frequent the habitations of men. They build their neſts near the ground, upon the roots of young trees, or amongſt plants ſtrong enough to ſupport them, in the thickeſt coverts, or moſt concealed holes of walls. The neſt is made of moſs, leaves, and horſe-hair, and lined with feathers; they often cover it with leaves, leaving only under the heap a narrow and oblique entrance, which the female conceals with a leaf, when ſhe goes out. She lays from five to ſeven eggs, of a browniſh colour, or dull white, ſprinkled with reddiſh ſpots. Whilſt ſhe ſits the male warbles in the

woods

woods his tender and harmonious ſong; he ſeems entirely engroſſed with his mate, and ſuffers no birds of his own ſpecies to live very near. There is a common proverb, that two Red-breaſts are never found in one buſh.

Red-breaſts ſeek the ſhade, and prefer moiſt ſituations: in the ſpring they feed on worms and inſects, which they take with great addreſs; they flutter like a butterfly about a leaf, on which they perceive a fly; on the ground they ſpring forward with little hops, and dart on their prey, flapping their wings. In the autumn they eat berries and fruits.

There is no bird that ſings more early: he is awake the firſt in the woods, and begins his ſong by the dawn of day, and he is the laſt that we hear, or ſee flutter about in the evening; beſides, his ſong continues the greateſt part of the winter and the ſpring.

No bird is ſo eaſily taken by call-birds or by traps; it is ſcarcely poſſible to make any noiſe which ſhall not awaken the curioſity, and engage the attention of all the Red-breaſts that are near; and if any bird-lime twigs be placed, they fly upon them; ſhould any one effect his eſcape from that ſnare, he makes a little noiſe, which occaſions

sions the rest that are not taken immediately to fly away.

The young have not the red feathers on their breast until after their first moulting. About the beginning of October, many of them prepare to leave France; they do not go in flocks, but preserve in their migrations their solitary character; they return to France in April. A gentleman in that month had taken several in nets for three days, one after another; on the fourth day, the morning being fine, he expected his usual success, but was disappointed, not one bird could be found.

However, many Red-breasts remain all the year in France; in winter they become very tame, and when the ground is covered with snow, approach houses, and even fly into the rooms if the windows be left open; they discover an affectionate familiarity, coming to pick up crumbs on the table. In a monastery, a Red-breast was kept in one of the cells; in two or three days he seemed quite at his ease: he spent his time there very happily all the winter: in the spring he struck with his beak against the window, as though he wished to go, and the window being opened he withdrew. Sometimes they have been known to come for years together to the same house, and

to

to ſit and ſing on the ſhoulders or chairs of thoſe who fed them. A gentleman, in Staffordſhire, found a Red-breaſt one morning in his chamber; it ſat and ſang on a chair; he opened the window to let it go out, but the bird ſeemed to have conceived an affection for him, and flew after him down ſtairs, fed on ſome crumbs whilſt the gentleman was at breakfaſt, amuſing him with his ſong, and flying about the houſe all day. At night, the little ſociable bird followed him up ſtairs when he retired to his chamber, and the next morning he was awakened by the Robin fluttering over his face; the bird then retired to his chair and began to ſing, and in this manner continued to live for ſome time with the gentleman, though every day he might have gone out, the windows being left open with that view. In a tame ſtate, Red-breaſts will eat almoſt any thing, bread, or ſmall pieces of meat, or grain.

As the Red-breaſt lives moſtly on inſects in ſummer, it is a bird difficult to bring up in a cage, though naturally tame: his beak is ſlight, like that of birds that feed chiefly on inſects.

In autumn they are very fat, and delicate food.

In England the Red-breaſt is held in peculiar eſteem. The old, and favourite ballad of the Children in the Wood, may not have contributed a little

a little to the tenderneſs with which it is treated by the playful ſchool-boy; and the laſt kind offices which they are repreſented in that ſimple ſong to have performed to the little innocents who died in the wood, in covering their bodies with leaves, naturally enough tends to excite in young and feeling minds, acts of forbearance, and ſentiments of affection.

THE WREN.

The plumage is grey, the wings waved with black, and aſh colour.

The bill is very ſlender, pointed, and ſcarcely bowed; the wing feathers on their outer webs are croſſed with many little duſky bars; the firſt, ſecond, and third are ſpotted with white between the bars.

The tail is rounded and croſſed with duſky, blackiſh lines.

The Wren is a ſprightly little bird, frequenting villages, and the neighbourhood of towns at the approach of winter, and chanting, eſpecially towards the evening, with a clear voice, his pleaſing, animated ſong.

He ſometimes ſhews himſelf for a moment upon a heap of dry wood, the next inſtant enters it, and diſappears. For a moment he is ſeen upon the edge of the thatch, but quickly conceals himſelf under

under it, or in some hole in the wall. As soon as he comes out, he frisks amongst the thick branches of the neighbouring bushes, always raising his little tail.

His flight is quick, and irregular, and he flaps his little wings so rapidly that you do not see their motion.

He preserves all his gaiety during the cold and gloomy season of winter, and sings his little lively song, in which, notes, like the words *fideriti*, *fideriti*, are often repeated, with more than usual animation and perseverance, when the falling snows and chilling cold seem to make all nature silent and torpid.

In that season he frequents our court-yards, particularly the wood houses, seeking amongst the sticks and under the banks, under the roofs of our outhouses, in holes of walls, and even in the mouths of wells, the chrysalids, and the dead bodies of insects. He frequents the sides of streams that do not freeze, retiring occasionally into the hollow parts of decayed trees, where twenty have been found crouded together.

Although they are neither shy, nor timid, they are not easily taken; they are so nimble, and so small, that they elude the attempts of their enemies.

In

In the ſpring the Wren frequents woods, where it builds its neſt under thick and leafy branches, at no great diſtance from the ground, ſometimes in a moſſy bank, or in the projecting margin of a little ſtream, under the trunk of a tree, againſt a rock, and ſometimes in the roofs of the ſolitary cots of faggot-makers in the woods. The outſide of this curious ſtructure is compoſed entirely of moſs, and neatly lined with feathers. It is almoſt round, and ſo uncouth on the outſide as to reſemble a moſs-grown clod, and excite of courſe no attention. A little entrance is left on the ſide; the Wren lays from ten to eighteen ſmall eggs, of a dingy white, ſpotted at the larger end with red.

If ſhe perceive that her neſt is diſcovered, ſhe immediately forſakes it.

Sometimes the field-mouſe takes poſſeſſion of a Wren's neſt, but whether it be firſt deſerted, or whether the mouſe deſtroys the young, is not known.

Like the Robin the Wren ſings late in the evening, and early in the morning.

It inhabits every part of Europe, and continues with us in England all the year.

The GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

On the crown the feathers are orange coloured, bounded on each ſide by black; plumage above a yelloviſh green, a reddiſh white beneath; the wing coverts duſky, croſſed with two white bands; quills and tail duſky, edged with pale green.

This bird is the ſmalleſt that is known in Europe; it eſcapes through the meſhes of our common bird-nets, and the wires of our cloſeſt cages. If we put it into a room, in time it diſappears through ſome little unperceived opening. In our gardens it ſoon eludes our ſight, and no wonder, ſince there are few leaves under which it may not ſit concealed. If you attempt to ſhoot it, with a view to preſerve the figure of the bird, the fineſt ſand is ſufficiently coarſe for the purpoſe, ſo minute is the beautiful little object of your purſuit. Its cry reſembles that of the graſshopper, and it ſcarcely exceeds the graſshopper in ſize.

The female lays ſix or ſeven eggs in a curious neſt, like a hollow globe, the outſide is of moſs, the inſide is lined with the fineſt down, and the entrance is a little hole in the ſide. She builds generally in woods, ſometimes in our gardens, in pines or yew trees.

The

The ſmalleſt inſects are their food. In the ſummer, they take them on the wing; in the winter, they feed upon their larvæ, their chryſalids, and upon little worms; occaſionally they eat ſmall ſeeds, particularly the ſeeds of fennel, and they turn over the earth or decayed wood which is in the hollow parts of willows, probably for the larvæ of inſects.

They frequent oak trees, ſeemingly in preference to any others. They are very ſprightly, and in perpetual motion, running along the branches in every direction, ſometimes with their backs downwards like the Titmouſe, ſearching for inſects in every little cavity of the bark. The Creſted Wren is found in every quarter of the globe, and ſtays with us in England all the year. Its ſong is ſaid to be delightful, but weaker than that of the common Wren; it has been ſeen ſuſpended on the wing for a conſiderable time over a buſh in bloſſom, ſinging melodiouſly.

THE YELLOW WREN.

The plumage is an olive green, the eye-brows yellowiſh, the wings and tail are brown, edged with yellowiſh green.

Its food is flies and other little inſects. During the ſummer it inhabits woods, making its neſt in the moſt concealed parts of buſhes, or in thick graſs;

graſs; the neſt in its conſtruction, and the materials employed, reſembles that of the common Wren, and probably this form, as it ſeems peculiar to our ſmalleſt birds, has been ſuggeſted by the wiſe Author of Nature, and of Inſtinct, becauſe in theſe cold climates, their warmth might be inſufficient for the purpoſe of incubation. This little bird is much attached to its neſt, and in this reſpect widely differs from the common Wren. A gentleman having found a neſt belonging to this little bird, by taking away the eggs as they were laid, occaſioned her to produce thirty in ſucceſſion; he then took pity upon her, and left a ſufficient number for her to ſit upon. In autumn it quits the woods, and frequents orchards and gardens. Its ſong continues all the ſpring and ſummer, it is full, ſweet, pleaſing, and continued.

In France, they arrive in the month of April, in little companies of 14 or 15, but they ſoon ſeparate, and pair. If any very ſevere cold ſhould happen after their arrival, it is fatal to them, and they are found dead upon the ground.

GENUS 77. PIPRA.

The beak is ſhorter than the head, towards the baſe ſlightly three-ſided, ſtrong, hard, a little incurvated, or bowed.

In

In moſt ſpecies the middle toe is connected to the outer toe, as far as the firſt joint.

Manakins, in general, are very little, and very pretty birds. They are not much known, as they principally inhabit the extenſive woods in the warmer climates of America, and ſeldom quit them to reſort to expoſed ſituations, or to approach the habitations of men. Their manner of flying is low, and rapid, and ſeldom to any conſiderable diſtance.

They perch not at the tops, but on the middle, or lower branches of trees, feeding upon wild berries, and ſometimes on inſects. In general they are ſeen in little companies, of eight, or ten, moſtly of the ſame ſpecies, but ſometimes with other birds, even of a different genus: it is in a morning that they are thus collected together, they ſeem to enjoy then the ſweets of ſociety, and expreſs their chearfulneſs by a gentle and pleaſing warbling. In the heat of the day they ſeparate, retiring from the painful ſplendour of the noon-day ſun, into ſhady retreats. They prefer freſh and verdant ſituations, though they do not haunt marſhes, or the banks of ſtreams.

THE ROCK MANAKIN

Has an erect creſt, with a purple margin. The plumage is of a ſaffron colour, and the coverts of the tail are ſquare, as though cut off.

This bird is the ſize of a ſmall pigeon, and very beautiful; the plumage, though of one colour, being very regularly diſpoſed. When young, its feathers are brown, afterwards of a ruſt colour; it is only by degrees that it acquires that beautiful orange, which diſtinguiſhes this bird in its more advanced age.

It is an inhabitant of South America, and is found in various parts of Surinam, Cayenne, and Guiana, in rocky ſituations; but no where ſo frequent as in the Mountain Luca, near the River Oyapoe, and the Mountain Courouaye, near the River Aprouack: they build there in deep chaſms of the rock, and in large caverns and receſſes, where the ſun never penetrates. Their neſts are of a very coarſe conſtruction, made like that of the wild pigeon, principally of dry ſticks.

It is probable ſince they are ſo fond of an obſcure retreat, that their eyes are capable of conſiderable contraction, and dilatation, like thoſe of the owl, becauſe they are ſeen in the day, particularly

ticularly the male birds, in the neighbourhood of theſe caverns.

They are very ſhy, and difficult to be ſhot, for as ſoon as they perceive the fowler, they fly with great rapidity, though to no very great diſtance; their flight is low.

The female lays two eggs: as ſhe advances in years her plumage brightens, ſhe diſcontinues breeding, and it is aſſerted, in time, acquires ſo entire a reſemblance to the male, as not to be eaſily diſtinguiſhable; this too has been ſaid to be the caſe with ſeveral of the Gallinaceous birds.

Though naturally wild, they have been tamed ſo far as to go about with the poultry, to which tribe of birds they bear a conſiderable reſemblance.

THE BLUE BACK MANAKIN,

Has a beautiful crimſon creſt, the plumage on the back is blue, on other parts black.

It inhabits Brazil, and Cayenne.

When young it is green, except its crimſon creſt. It frequents woods, ſeldom wandering far, and ſitting moſtly perched upon the lower branches of trees, where it finds thoſe ſeeds, and inſects, on which it feeds. Blue Back Manakins are frequently in ſmall flocks, and utter in concert

concert a little note, at ſhort intervals, though not pleaſing in itſelf. It is often grateful to travellers, bewildered in the vaſt foreſts of Guiana, for when they hear the cry of theſe birds, they are certain that water is near.

The BLACK CAP MANAKIN.

The crown and hind part of the head is black; the chin, fore-part of the neck, and under parts of the body white, theſe white feathers paſſing round the neck form a ring. The reſt of the plumage is black, except a white ſpot on each wing.

Like other Manakins they occaſionally live in little companies, but do not mix with birds of different ſpecies.

The cry they utter reſembles that which is made by the little inſtrument we uſe in cracking nuts, from which circumſtance Mr. Buffon has given it the name of the Nut-cracker. They are very ſprightly, and active, ſeldom in a ſtate of repoſe, but friſking from branch to branch, without flying to any conſiderable diſtance.

A variety of this genus, without the white ſpot on each wing, frequents the neighbourhood of ants neſts; theſe little birds are obſerved to ſpring occaſionally from the ground, uttering a ſingular cry, probably in conſequence of their legs being ſtung by the ants.

THE LITTLE MANAKIN.

The plumage is grey, the head black, ſpotted with white.

It inhabits India, and is about the ſize of a Wren.

THE WHITE CAP MANAKIN.

The head is white, the general plumage a grey brown.

It inhabits Brazil and Surinam, frequents reeds, and ſings pleaſingly.

THE TUNEFUL MANAKIN.

The forehead is yellow, the crown of the head and neck blue; the reſt of the plumage above, duſky, and black; the lower part of the back, breaſt, and thighs, orange.

It inhabits St. Domingo, where it has acquired the name of Organiſt, from its ſong, which forms a compleat octave, in the moſt agreeable ſucceſſion of notes.

It is probably the ſame bird mentioned by Du Pratz; its notes, he ſays, are ſo varied, ſo melodious, and warbled in a ſtile ſo tender, and expreſſive, that thoſe who have heard it are leſs captivated with the ſong of the Nightingale.

Mr. Du Pratz obſerves, that it ſang perched on an oak near the houſe where he lived.

It

It has been remarked that this intereſting ſongſter ſings for near two hours, with ſcarcely any intermiſſion; and after a reſpite of about two hours, begins again its delightful melody.

GENUS 78. PARUS.

The bill is ſtrait, ſtrong, hard, and ſharp pointed. The noſtrils are round, and covered with briſtles, which are reflected or turned back over them, from the baſe of the beak. The tongue appears as though cut off at the end, and is terminated by three or four briſtles.

The Titmouſe Genus, ſeems to have a near affinity with ſeveral birds of the order Picæ, particularly the Woodpecker, Creeper, &c. Like them they often build in hollow trees, and creep along the under ſide of the branches, or run up and down the trunk, ſeeking for inſects, in the irregularities of the bark. Some ſpecies of the Titmouſe, like the Oriole, make a pendulous neſt. Indeed, from ſeveral circumſtances in their general habits, they ſeem to conſtitute a miniature reſemblance with ſeveral of the Picæ.

Moſt birds of this genus are apparently weak, becauſe they are generally diminutive in ſize, but they are at the ſame time ſprightly, active, and ſpirited. In conſtant action, flitting from tree to tree, hopping from one branch to another,

climbing the bark, or running up walls, they fix, and ſuſpend themſelves in every poſſible form; ſometimes with the head downwards, ſeeking for worms, inſects, their larvæ, chryſalids, or eggs. They feed too on ſeveral kinds of ſeeds, but inſtead of breaking them like Linnets, and Goldfinches, between the mandibles of their beak, they generally place them between their feet, and pierce them with the point of the bill. It is curious to ſee them feed in this manner upon hempſeed; they will pierce the ſhells of nuts and almonds, and if a nut be ſuſpended at the end of a ſtring, they will fix upon it, ſtrike it with the bill, and ſuffer themſelves to vibrate with the ſtring, without once looſing their hold, or ceaſing to peck the nut.

The muſcles of their neck are very ſtrong, and their ſkulls are thick; this explains in part their manœuvres, but to account for the whole, we muſt ſuppoſe that the muſcles of their legs and feet are very ſtrong.

Towards the cloſe of autumn, they frequent the neighbourhood of our habitations, feeding upon ſeeds, and the inſects which the cold of winter has deſtroyed. They ſearch too for the bodies of dead birds; and if they find any alive, entangled in traps, or weakened by diſeaſe, they take an advantage

vantage of their diſtreſſed and defenceleſs ſituation, and though they ſhould be of their own ſpecies, they pierce their ſkulls, and feed upon their brains. This ſpecies of cruelty ſeems implanted in their nature, and to influence them when they are not urged by want; for in a cage, when they are ſupplied with food in abundance, they will ſtill practiſe this unneceſſary act of violence.

Their food is very various. They will eat nuts, almonds, kernels, cheſnuts, figs, hemp-ſeed, hay-ſeeds, and a variety of ſmall grains; they are fond too of blood, carrion, fat, ſuet, and tallow.

In winter, if there be placed upon a window-ſill, ſome hemp-ſeed in a little box, without a lid, and ſome ſuet in a net, the Titmice will be attracted in conſiderable numbers; their manner of taking the kernel out of the ſeed, which they place between their feet, and hammer with the bill, and the thieviſh activity which they diſcover in ſeizing this grateful plunder, is very amuſing. The Titmice are a very prolific Genus; they lay from 18 to 20 eggs; ſome of them make their neſts in holes of trees, employing their little beaks to give them a form ſuitable to their purpoſe, and others build theirs in an oval form, very large, and well adapted for ſo great a number of eggs;

some again suspend them ingeniously from the branch of a tree, and all employ a variety of proper materials to make a comfortable receptacle for their young; and exert an amazing, and well directed activity, in furnishing their numerous offspring with convenient food, and in defending them from the assaults of every enemy.

No birds discover more fire and intrepidity; they are the first to assault the owl; they aim boldly at his eyes; their attack is accompanied with a ruffling of the feathers, and a rapid succession of violent attitudes and precipitate motions, which express with energy their little rage.

When they are taken, they bite the hand and fingers of the bird-catcher, striking repeated blows with their bills, and calling with reiterated screams to their companions, who assemble in numbers, and joining in the cry bring numbers more.

They are easily taken in almost every kind of trap. Sometimes they are intoxicated by meal, or meat, soaked in wine; they attempt to fly, find themselves giddy, flutter, fall, roll about, make an effort to rise, and fall again, and by their strange and singular gestures, and whimsical attitudes, contribute to the amusement of a young spectator.

Although Titmice occasionally discover a sa-

vage

rage disposition, in general they live harmoniously together; their cruelty seems capricious, and rather the consequence of their hasty, volatile character, than a fixed habit. Mr. Buffon saw one, who, so far from abusing the power which he derived from his superior strength, when he might have done it with impunity, discovered that tenderness, which helpless, and unprotected weakness, should always excite in the strong.

Having put two young black-headed Titmice, just taken from a nest, into a cage, with an old blue Titmouse, it adopted the young, performed all the kind offices of a parent, dividing with them its food, and preparing it for them.

Some persons pretend that at certain seasons they have a pleasing song, and are capable of being taught to pipe tunes, but this is not a very general opinion, and may want confirmation.

Almost all this Genus make hoards of provisions, but it arises perhaps from the impulse of avarice, rather than of foresight, since they generally pass the summer in hilly situations, and the winter in those that are more sheltered.

They seek retired situations to roost in; they seem to wish to pierce the walls to make an evening retreat, and always at some distance from the ground; even in cages, they never roost at the bottom.

Some ſpecies have been obſerved to paſs the the night in holes of trees; they enter haſtily, after looking about on all ſides, as though to aſſure themſelves that they were ſecure, and in vain has a ſtick been introduced, in order to diſturb them, they have obſtinately remained in their retreat.

It is probable that they generally return to the ſame ſituation to rooſt, for there they generally eſtabliſh their magazines. In the ſpring they are very miſchievous in gardens, by pecking the young buds off the trees, or by bruiſing them in ſearch of inſects.

THE TOUPET TITMOUSE.

The head is creſted, the forehead black; the body aſh-coloured; beneath white, tinged with red.

It inhabits, breeds, and paſſes all the year in Carolina and Virginia. It confines itſelf to the woods, and like other Titmice feeds on inſects. It flies ſwiftly, and during flight frequently folds up the wing, uttering at the ſame time a weak note.

THE CRESTED TITMOUSE.

The top of the head is creſted with long black feathers, margined with white; the chin and throat are black. It is white beneath.

This

This beautiful bird exhales a natural perfume, which it contracts among the juniper trees, and other aromatic ſhrubs, that grow in the ſolitudes which it frequents. It delights in retirement; foreſts of pines, and thickets of juniper, are the retreats it loves; withdrawn from other birds, and far from the haunts of men, it enjoys in ſecurity that liberty, which ſeems ſo eſſential to its happineſs! For, if it be once taken, which from its natural ſhyneſs, and diſtruſt, is ſeldom the caſe, it ſullenly refuſes food; and whatever arts may be employed to ſoothe confinement, it reſolutely refuſes life, when deprived of liberty.

It inhabits Europe, and is found in ſeveral parts of France, particularly in Normandy, and in other latitudes between France and Sweden. It is as fruitful as other birds of the ſame genus.

THE GREAT TITMOUSE.

The bill, the head, and throat, are black; the cheeks are white; the back and wings, are of an olive green; beneath greeniſh; but an irregular ſtripe of black divides the whole of the ſtomach into two parts; there is a bar of white on each wing; and the legs are of a lead colour.

It inhabits Europe, is very frequent in England, and is found in many latitudes, between Sweden, and the Cape of Good Hope, in Africa.

This ſpecies frequents both hills and plains, buſhes and groves, orchards and foreſts; in general preferring elevated ſituations, particularly in ſummer.

In the ſpring, it is ſaid to have a pleaſing ſong, and ſome have profeſſed to eſteem it highly, as a call-bird, for the purpoſe of enſnaring others.

It is eaſily tamed, and like the Goldfinch may be taught to eat out of the hand, to draw water in a bucket, and even to breed in confinement.

In a wild ſtate they pair early in February, but it is ſome time before they begin to build their neſt, which they generally place in a hole of a wall of deſerted houſes, or in the hollow of a tree. They lay from eight to twelve eggs, and hatch them in twelve days.

They breed three times a year, and live to the age of five years.

THE BLUE TITMOUSE.

The crown of the head is blue, the forehead and cheeks, white; a line of black extends to the back part of the neck, which is black. The back is of a yellowiſh green; Wing coverts blue; the quills black, with duſky edges. The tail blue.

This is one of the commoneſt ſpecies of little birds; they are eaſily taken in traps, and are remarkable for the colours of their plumage.

In

In our gardens they are considered as very destructive, not only injuring the young buds of trees, but taking off the fruit with singular address, which they carry to their magazine.

Fruit, however, is not the only food of the Blue Titmouse, like other birds of the same family; it feeds on insects and carrion, and upon the dead bodies of little birds: it takes off their flesh with so much exactness, that it has been proposed to give them their little carcasses to anatomise. This minute bird is remarkable for the courage, indeed the fury, with which it assaults the owl.

It does not always, (like most of the Titmouse genus), pierce hempseed with the point of its bill, but sometimes breaks them between the mandibles.

The female makes her nest in holes of walls, or trees, warmly lined with feathers, and lays from eight to twenty eggs. She is supposed to lay but once in a season, unless she has been induced to forsake her first nest, and this she is very apt to do, if the eggs be touched; but when once the young are hatched, she defends them with great courage.

In the winter they frequent the neighbourhood of houses, with others of their genus, but without any appearance of union, or attachment.

Though in some respects this little bird be mischievous in our gardens, in others it is serviceable. We are indebted to it for destroying many caterpillars, and the eggs and larvæ of several insects, which are devourers of fruit.

The COLEMOUSE.

The head is black; the body ash-colour; the back part of the head, and the breast, white.

This is a very pretty bird; it is smaller than the Blue Titmouse, and there is a neatness, and modesty in the colour of the plumage, that produce a pleasing effect. It is less distrustful than others of its genus, and however often it may have been caught, it seems to acquire no caution from experience, but again ventures into the same snares.

The Colemouse is a courageous bird, and in all its habits resembles the Blue Titmouse; like that running up trees, and along the branches, in every direction, in search of insects.

The MARSH TITMOUSE.

The head is black; the back ash-coloured; the temple white.

By some, this bird is not thought a distinct species, but only a variety of the Colemouse.

It prefers woods, rather than orchards and gardens,

dens, feeding upon ſeeds, waſps, bees, and caterpillars, and making a hoard of hemp-ſeed, when it has an opportunity.

He collects ſeveral ſeeds in his bill, and carries them to his magazine, to eat them at his leiſure; perhaps his manner of breaking the ſeeds, which requires a ſituation where he may place them one at a time between his feet, and pierce them with the beak, may compel him to this inſtance of foreſight.

The Marſh Titmouſe is a ſolitary bird, frequenting willows, and alder trees, and conſequently marſhy ſituations. It is common in England, and many parts of Europe.

THE LONG TAIL TITMOUSE.

The head is white, the tail longer than the body, a broad ſtreak of black unites at the back part of the head, and paſſes down the back to the tail.

This Titmouſe has a ſmall, and proportionably a longiſh body, which, together with the length of its tail, as its flight is rapid, would induce one to imagine that it was an arrow darting through the air.

It inhabits the woods, is ſprightly, and active, never ſcarcely a moment in repoſe, flitting from buſh to buſh, running along the branches in every direction,

direction, hanging by its feet, or aſſembling at the cry of its own ſpecies; it feeds on inſects and ſeeds, pinches buds of trees, and lays from ten to ſeventeen eggs, like others of the ſame family.

In the conſtruction of its neſt, the Long Tail Titmouſe differs from moſt of the tribe; it is not made in the hole of a tree; this would be inconvenient to a bird of ſo long a tail, the feathers of which are apt to fall off upon the ſlighteſt violence; but it is firmly fixed upon the branches of a ſhrub, about four feet from the ground. The neſt is of an oval form, cloſed above, with a ſmall hole at the ſide for an entrance, and ſometimes another oppoſite, that the bird may leave it without hazarding an injury to its tail, by turning round in ſo ſmall a compaſs. The outſide is compoſed of blades of graſs, moſs, and lichen; the inſide well furniſhed with feathers.

They live together with their young in a family, during the winter. Their feathers are very long and downy. In the ſpring they have a little ſong.

This ſpecies inhabits Europe, and even Jamaica, and is very common with us, frequenting gardens and orchards.

The PENDULINE TITMOUSE.

The forehead is black; the head and neck aſh-colour; behind the top of the head whitiſh. There is a black band which paſſes by each eye. The wing and tail feathers are duſky, margined with whitiſh aſh-colour.

This bird inhabits Ruſſia, Poland, Italy, and ſome other parts of Europe.

The great ingenuity which it employs in the conſtruction of its neſt, is the moſt intereſting circumſtance in its hiſtory. The outſide is formed of fibres, and little roots, but the bulk of it conſiſts of the down of willows, of the poplar, of cotton graſs, of thiſtles, and of other plants: this is curiouſly combined, and interwoven, until it acquires a texture almoſt as firm as cloth; the inſide is furniſhed with the ſame materials, but not worked in the ſame manner, that it may be ſoft and warm for the young. It is covered above, for the purpoſe of warmth and ſhelter, and ſuſpended from the forky part of a ſlender branch, by a twine, curiouſly woven by this ingenious mechanic, of the filaments of nettles, and of hemp.

This neſt is contrived to hang from a ſlender branch; hence it is gently rocked by the wind; and ſuſpended over a running water, which ſecures it from the attempts of rats, ſnakes, lizards,

and

and enemies of that kind; beſides, this ſituation is remarkably favourable, on account of gnats, and inſects, which are the principal food of the Penduline Titmouſe. The opening of the neſt is on one ſide, generally towards the water; the female of this ſpecies lays but four or five eggs, and breeds twice a year.

Penduline Titmice frequent marſhy ſituations, concealing themſelves amongſt ruſhes, reeds, and the leaves of aquatic plants.

THE BEARDED TITMOUSE.

The head is grey, the tail longer than the body, the bill orange colour in the living bird, beneath each eye is a tuft of black feathers, like whiſkers.

It inhabits Europe, and is found in marſhy ſituations, in ſeveral parts of England, in the marſhes among the reeds near London, and in Glouceſterſhire and Lancaſhire.

This has been ſuppoſed to be an Indian bird. Mr. Buffon ſuggeſts, that it was introduced into England by the Counteſs of Albemarle, who brought a cage full of them from Denmark, ſome which might have eſcaped, and planted a colony with us, but they are too numerous, and too widely diſperſed, to ſuppoſe that to have been their firſt introduction. They feed on the ſeeds of reeds, and on ſmall inſects,

infects, and ſtay with us the whole year. Their neſts are not very certainly known, but as ſome have been found compoſed of very ſoft, downy materials, and ſuſpended from three reeds connected at the top, for that purpoſe, it is ſuppoſed that they belong to this ſpecies. The reed grounds in ſeveral places cover many acres, and are only viſited in boats, at the time that the reeds are cut; this accounts for our knowing ſo little of the habits of this bird, which probably may be very intereſting, if it be true, as aſſerted, that the male covers the female with his wings, when they repoſe. This ſingular attention might lead one to preſume a number of other attentions, curious, and amuſing.

THE AMOROUS TITMOUSE.

Its plumage is of a ſlate colour.

It inhabits the northern parts of Aſia.

When birds of this ſpecies are confined in a cage, in pairs, nothing can exceed their fondneſs: they are perpetually billing and careſſing one another, and by a thouſand little attentions, not only alleviate the rigours of confinement, but make even captivity delightful.

THE

THE CAPE TITMOUSE

Inhabits the ſouthern parts of Africa, and builds a neſt in the form of a bottle, with a ſhort neck. It is compoſed chiefly of a cotton-like ſubſtance, and concealed amongſt the thickeſt ſhrubs: on the outſide of the neſt, there is an additional ſtructure for the lodgement of the male, whilſt the female ſits, or broods her young. It is ſaid too, that when the female leaves the neſt, the male ſtrikes againſt the outſide, and cauſes the edges of the entrance to cloſe together; by this means, defending their young from ſuch inſects as might injure them, when unprotected by the preſence of their parents.

GENUS 79. HIRUNDO.

The bill is ſhort, broad at the baſe, ſmall at the point, and a little bending. The gape of the bill very long.

The noſtrils are open.

The tongue ſhort, broad, and cloven.

The tail in moſt ſpecies forked, and the wings long.

The legs, the toes placed three before, and one behind, a very few ſpecies excepted.

This genus of birds lives on inſects which they take on the wing.

Their

Their plumage, though not beautiful in itſelf, is gloſſed with different ſhades, ſo as to ſhew a change of colours, in different points of view.

The mouths of the Hirundo genus, or Swallows, are not like thoſe of the Goatſucker, furniſhed with a viſcous, or clammy ſubſtance, to retain the flies and inſects that they once have taken into their beaks: this is unneceſſary to the Swallow tribe, whoſe ſight is remarkably quick; they ſeize the flying inſects by a ſudden ſnapping of the mandibles, which can be heard at a diſtance.

Swallows are very ſociable birds; they come, and fly, and migrate in conſiderable flocks, and in ſome degree perform the kind offices of ſocial life, by aſſiſting one another in the conſtruction of their neſts.

Their neſts in general are formed with conſiderable care, and intelligence. Some ſpecies build in the holes of walls, or in holes which they themſelves prepare in ſand rocks; they make the cavities ſufficiently deep to inſure the ſafety of their infant brood, and carry them ſuch materials, as may enable them to lie ſoft and warm, and at their eaſe; others again build againſt houſes.

The flight of the Swallow is rapid, yet eaſy, and continued; and indeed, this ſeems its natural ſtate; it eats, drinks, and bathes, and even feeds its young upon the wing.

It rises, descends, and sails smoothly, yet rapidly through the air, without the least appearance of effort.

It feels itself in its proper element, and as it glides through the yielding expanse in every direction, by a cheerful twittering note, expresses its felicity.

One time it pursues the flitting insects, following their oblique, and irregular direction, with the utmost facility, quitting one to chace another, and in its flight seizing perhaps a third. Sometimes the Swallow skims lightly over the surface of the fields, and of the water, to seize the insects, which the rain, or moisture have attracted; sometimes too it escapes itself from the impetuous attempt of a bird of prey, by the ready quickness of its movements. Always master of its flight, however rapid, in an instant it can change its direction. It seems to describe in the air, a changeable, trackless, labyrinth; the paths of which cross, interweave, diverge, approach, confound, combine, rise, descend, lose themselves, and appear again to intersect, and entangle one another in a thousand ways, too complicated to be pictured to the eye, by the art of drawing, or to the imagination, by the powers of verbal description.

The

The Swallow tribe appears to belong equally to both continents. Indeed what country can we ſuppoſe inacceſſible to birds who fly ſo well, and tranſport themſelves from one place to another, with ſuch wonderful facility.

With regard to the migration of Swallows, naturaliſts are very much divided.

There are three opinions on this ſubject.

The firſt is, that they remove in the winter to warmer climates, in ſearch of inſect food.

The ſecond, that they retire to caverns, and hollows of rocks, and paſs the winter there, torpid.

The third opinion is, that they conceal themſelves under water, in the winter, collecting (as ſome ſay), in numbers on a reed, until it break, and let them gently ſink. Others relate, that ſeveral of them take a ſtraw between their beaks, and plunge together beneath the ſurface; whilſt others again aſſert, that they unite their feet together, and immerſe themſelves in cluſters.

The advocates for the firſt opinion, *that they remove to warmer climates*, quote ſeveral authorities.

Peter Martyr ſays, that he *knows* that Kites and Swallows quit Europe at the approach of winter, and paſs into Egypt.

Father Kirker aſſerts, upon the teſtimony of the inhabitants of the Morea, that a great number of Swallows and Storks paſs every year from Egypt and Lybia, to Europe.

Mr. Adanſon, an attentive obſerver, and highly deſerving attention, aſſerts, that Chimney Swallows arrive at Senegal about the 9th of October, and return in the ſpring. That on the 6th of October, being fifty leagues from the coaſt, between the Iſland of Goree and Senegal, he ſaw four Swallows,

lows, which rested on his ship; they were all so fatigued, that they suffered themselves to be taken, and he knew them to be at least of the European species.

About the same season, in the year 1765, the Viscount Querhoent, an intelligent Natural Historian, relates, that the Penthievre, a French ship, was almost darkened by a cloud of Swallows, near the Cape de Verd Islands.

Leguat, on the 12th of November, saw four Swallows, which accompanied his vessel to the Cape de Verd Islands.

Christopher Columbus, in his second voyage, saw one which flew near his ship, ten days before he discovered Dominica.

Forster, and many other travellers, and writers of respectable authority, speak decidedly to similar circumstances, of Swallows flying near ships, at some distance from land: and other attentive observers, have asserted, that *Swallows* leave England about the latter end of September; that prodigious swarms assemble at that time on the Coast of Suffolk and Norfolk; that they rest on trees, churches, and other buildings for some days, if the wind be unfavourable; but that if it should change in the night, and become propitious, they all disappear before morning.

Mr. Collinson, a very respectable Member of the Royal Society, mentions two curious relations, of good authority; the one communicated by Sir Charles Wager, the other by a Mr. Wright, a master of a ship. Sir Charles Wager writes, 'Returning home in the spring of the year, as I came into 'sounding, in our channel, a great flock of Swallows came, 'and settled on all my rigging; every rope was covered; 'they hung on one another like a swarm of bees; the decks, 'and carving, were filled with them: they seemed almost 'famished and spent, and were only feathers and bones, but

'being

'being recruited by a night's reſt, they took their flight in 'the morning.'

Mr. White, an obſervant Naturaliſt, and the author of an ingenious work, intitled, The Natural Hiſtory and Antiquities of Selborne, on Michaelmas-day, 1768, early in the morning, which was very miſty, on a large wild heath, ſaw numberleſs Swallows cluſtered on the buſhes; the moment the ſun broke out, they were inſtantly on the wing, and proceeded with an eaſy, and placid flight, towards the ſea. After this he ſaw no more flocks, only now and then a ſtraggler.—*See Philoſophical Tranſactions, volume* 51, *part* 2, *page* 459.

In Kalm's Voyage to America, when he had paſſed over about two-thirds of the Atlantic Ocean, on the ſecond of September, a Swallow ſettled on his ſhip.

This is, at leaſt, a ſtrong preſumption of their power to perform a very diſtant flight.

In favour of the ſecond opinion, that they retire to caverns, and the hollows of rocks, and paſs the winter there, torpid,

Several authorities are quoted. Ariſtotle aſſerts, that many have been found under thoſe circumſtances, without a ſingle feather upon their bodies. Albert, Auguſtin, Nyphus, Gaſpard, Heldelin, and others, aſſert, that Swallows have often been found in Germany, in a torpid ſtate, in the hollows of trees, and even in their neſts.

Mr. Collinſon, in the 53d volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, page 101, mentions the teſtimony of three Gentlemen, who ſay, that a number of Sand Martins were drawn out of a cliff, on the banks of the River Rhine, in March

March 1762. And the Hon. Daines Barrington relates, on the authority of Lord Belhaven, that numbers of Swallows have been found in old dry walls, and sand hills, near his seat in East Lothian, in Scotland, not only once, but year after year; and that when exposed to the warmth of fire, they revived.

Some years ago, it is said, they were seen in a torpid state, on the fall of a great fragment of the chalky cliffs of Sussex; and in a decayed hollow tree, cut down near Dolgelli, in Merionethshire, in Wales.

In a cliff near Whitby, in Yorkshire, when digging for a fox, whole bushels of torpid swallows were found.

Mr. Conway, of Syckton, in Flintshire, in Wales, asserts, that a few years ago, looking down an old lead mine, in that county, he observed numbers of Swallows clinging to the timbers, seemingly asleep; that on throwing some gravel upon them, they just moved, but did not attempt to fly; this happened between the latter end of October and Christmas.

On the 23d of October, 1767, a Martin was seen in Southwark, flying in and out of a nest, and on the 29th of October, four or five Swallows were observed to hover about, and settle on the county hospital at Oxford; and once near Christmas, a few were noticed on the moulding of a window of Merton College.

The advocates for this opinion, support their theory by the analogy of Bats, of Marmots, of Dormice, and Bears, who pass the winter in a torpid state; and urge, that the prodigious exertions of this little bird, who, during the summer, has been so much on the wing, may require the refreshment of a winter's sleep. On the other hand, it is objected, that admitting these facts to be true, they may have been accidental circumstances. The birds so found, might have been a late hatch that were left behind, not being sufficiently advanced

vanced to support the fatigue of a migration; or at most, that these facts may apply only to some species. Nor should it be omitted, that in 1757, by the direction of Mr. Collinson, a bank of a river, perforated with the holes of the Sand Martin, was accurately searched, in order to find some of these birds, but without success. It is farther objected, that if this opinion, of their torpor arising from cold, was well founded, when the seasons are mild, in autumn, they ought not to disappear so soon; and when we have warm weather in February or March, they should appear sooner; this, it is said, is not the case.

The third notion, that they remain concealed under water, or in the mud, during the winter, is still more extraordinary; and from its being contrary to all analogy, seems to require the strongest support from actual observation.

It was first suggested by Olaus Magnus, Archbishop of Upsal, who says, that they are often found in clustered masses at the bottom of the northern lakes, beak to beak, wing to wing, and foot to foot. That when they are taken by experienced fishermen, they throw them in again; but those who are unexperienced, by exposing them to warmth, revive them, it is true, but that this premature resurrection is attended only by a short renewal of their powers.

Some very respectable Natural Historians have favoured this opinion; amongst others, the father, and founder of this science, the great Linnæus. Klein has adopted the same opinion, and even produced certificates; they are principally signed by one person, and speak of a solitary instance, which happened long before, in the years of childhood, or else are founded upon hearsay, and admitted to be uncommon.

Etmulles says, that he saw a bushel of Swallows, clustered together, taken out of a frozen fish pond.

Dr. Colas, speaking of the manner of fishing in northern climates, by breaking holes, and drawing nets under the ice, asserts, that he saw sixteen Swallows so drawn out of the Lake of Samrodt; thirty out of a great pond belonging to Rosneilen; and at Schlebitten, near a house of the Earl of Dolma, he saw two Swallows just come out of the water, that could scarcely stand, being very wet and weak, and with the wings hanging on the ground.

To support these surprising, and confessedly rare instances, by some kind of analogy, they refer to the case of the larvæ of many insects, of frogs, the amphibious animals, and fish.

It is objected, that Olaus Magnus, who broached this doctrine, seems to have been very credulous, or very fortunate, that at the same time that he has peopled the water with Swallows, he has translated mice to the clouds; and that his writings are very amusing, and abound with wonders.

That Linnæus restrains his assertion to two of the species; that he does not profess to have seen, or to vouch the truth of every thing he relates.

On the authority of Keoping, he has rather favoured the opinion, that there are men with tails.

On Solander's authority, he has given a wonderful account of the Furia, an insect in Bothnia, which falling out of the air upon the bodies of men, or animals, penetrates them in an instant, and afflicts them with pain so excruciating, as to prove fatal in a quarter of an hour.

On the authority of Baron Munchausen, he speaks of the seeds of Funguses, which being dispersed in water, live, and move, at last fix themselves, and become Funguses again.—Animals thus becoming vegetables.

It

It is further objected that the inſtances adduced are very few, and moſt of them grounded upon hearſay.—That if this really were the fact, they would often be taken in nets by fiſhermen, and the proofs be notorious, from the frequent experience and teſtimony of ſailors, travellers, fowlers, and ruſtics. That as their collecting together is a circumſtance of general obſervation, ſo their actual immerſion, and emerſion, muſt have been frequently ſeen, if it really exiſted.

It has been publickly advertized in Germany, to any perſon, who in the winter ſhould produce Swallows, taken out of water, in this torpid ſtate, to recompenſe them, by paying them the weight of the Swallows ſo found in money.

Many literary characters, and perſons of diſtinction, who were diſpoſed to believe this circumſtance, have promiſed to endeavour to furniſh additional proofs to Mr. Reaumur, and Count Buffon, but have not done it.

It is contended, that the analogy between Swallows, and amphibious animals, does not ſtrictly apply, as the laſt are anatomically different; that having only one auricle, and one ventricle, and cold blood, their ſtructure is calculated to admit of their breathing arbitrarily, or at diſtant intervals, whereas there is no ſuch contrivance in Swallows. And that very ingenious anatomiſt, Mr. John Hunter, has diſſected many Swallows, but found nothing in their organs of reſpiration different from other birds. It is contended too, that lizards and frogs, which do ſleep during winter, do breathe in their torpid ſtate, conſequently that the notion that terreſtrial animals can remain long under water, without drowning, ſeems unfounded on obſervation, and improbable.

The authors of the Italian Ornithology, and Count Buffon, have made the experiment of plunging Swallows under water, and they died.

Count Buffon tried a similar experiment with frogs and fish, in the month of February; those which he put into water, which was open to the air, and were allowed to rise to the surface, continued to live; but those that were put into a vessel of water, under circumstances exactly similar, except that they were restrained from coming up quite to the surface, soon shewed symptoms of uneasiness, and died; some in six hours, and those that survived the longest, in two days.

Mr. Frisch tied to the legs of Swallows, threads dipped in water colours; the next year, he asserts, that he saw the same birds, and that the threads had not lost their colour.

Additional Observation.

Mr. White, the ingenious author of the Natural History of Selborne, whose remarks well deserve the attention of every ornithologist, from repeated observations, inclines to the opinion, that many of the Swallow kind do not depart from this island, but retire to holes and caverns, from which they are allured even in the winter, when the weather is warm and inviting.

The CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

The forehead and chin, a reddish chesnut colour; the plumage above blackish, glossed with purple; beneath white; the tail forked; all the feathers in the tail, except the two in the middle, marked with an oval white spot, near the end.

The Chimney Swallows seem by instinct attached to the habitations of men. They build their nests in our chimnies, and even in chambers,

bers, but little frequented, if the windows be left open.

In mountainous countries, where the chimnies are closed above in the summer, on account of the heavy snows, they build under the eaves, still constant in their attachment to the neighbourhood of man. A bewildered traveller when he sees one of these birds, may consider it as a bird of good omen, presaging that some habitation is near.

They generally appear about the beginning or middle of April. Their visit is not hastened by premature warm weather, in February or March; or retarded by severe cold in April. In 1740, great numbers died in France: the severity of the cold had deprived them of their insect food; their bodies were emaciated, and some were observed to fix themselves to the wall, and seize the dried insects that remained in the spiders webs.

Birds so innocent, and useful, have every claim to our protection: they deliver us from those swarms of insects which would otherwise infest our houses, injure our gardens, our trees, and, perhaps, our harvests. The least return we ought to make, and, indeed, the only one they require, is, to let them live secure. Yet, we see, that many, insensible to the advantages we receive from them, indulge themselves in the inhuman,

and unmanly amuſement, of ſhooting at them with guns, under the pretence of perfecting themſelves in that art, by exerciſing it againſt a mark, which moves ſo ſwiftly, ſo irregularly, and conſequently which it muſt be ſo difficult to hit.

They frequent the ſame place, year after year; this is proved by the experiment of Friſch: and at a caſtle near Lorraine, a ring of braſs wire was fixed to the foot of a Swallow, the Swallow returned with it again the next year. Every ſeaſon they build a new neſt, cloſe to that of the year before, compoſed of ſtraw, of plaiſtered earth, and horſe-hair, and lined with dry graſs and feathers, and open at the top.

They are careſſing birds; the female lays twice a year. Whilſt ſhe ſits, the male ſpends the night on the edge of the neſt; his reſt is ſhort; he flies till late in the evening, and begins his babbling early in the morning. As ſoon as the young are hatched, both the parents frequently feed them, and keep the neſt remarkably neat. But it is very amuſing to ſee them inſtruct their offſpring how to fly; they encourage them by their voice, preſent them with their food at a little diſtance, drawing back by degrees as they advance, and at laſt gently puſh them from the neſt, not without the appearance of great ſolicitude: they ſport with

their

their young ones as they fly, and warble to them in the moſt expreſſive manner, as it were to animate their endeavours, by the aſſurance of protection.

As an inſtance of their ardent attachment to their young, Boerhaave relates, that a Swallow that had been abſent to get proviſions, at his return finding the houſe on fire, to which his neſt was fixed, darted through the flame, to feed, and protect his offspring.

Though Swallows paſs much of their time upon the wing, yet they often repoſe themſelves upon the roofs of houſes, chimnies, trees, and ſometimes on the ground.

In England, towards the cloſe of ſummer, they have been obſerved to paſs the night upon alders, and aquatic trees, or ſhrubs; for this purpoſe they chooſe the loweſt branches that are moſt ſheltered from the wind.

Two gentlemen, who ſpent a night at Maidenhead-bridge in September, went by torch-light to an adjacent iſle, and in half an hour brought away 50 dozen. They had only to draw the willow twigs through their hands, the birds did not attempt to eſcape: if it be ſaid that theſe birds were aſſembled in this manner, in order to plunge under the water, it will be objected, that in that

caſe, in a river ſo perpetually fiſhed as the River Thames, the fiſhermen muſt very frequently bring them up in their nets.

It has been obſerved, that the twigs upon which they have collected, generally die.

They leave this country, or at leaſt diſappear about the beginning of October; and it is ſuppoſed they generally depart in the night, perhaps to be leſs expoſed to the attacks of birds of prey; and that they avail themſelves of a favourable wind, which muſt wonderfully facilitate their paſſage: when we conſider the velocity with which air balloons have been carried, merely by the current of the air, at a little elevation, the difficulty of the migration of birds ſeems much leſſened; and it has been obſerved by Mr. Hebert, that Swallows, on their departure, riſe into a higher region of the air.

In the Iſlands of Hieres, which are on the ſouth coaſt of France, where the weather is always temperate, and a perpetual ſpring is enjoyed, Swallows have been ſeen all the winter; there they have found their inſect food. They rooſt upon the orange trees, and injure that delicate plant.

A Swallow has been employed like a Carrier Pigeon; the female was taken from her neſt, to the place from which the intelligence was to be ſent, and a thread of a certain colour, and a certain

tain number of knots, was tied to the foot; the affectionate mother haſtened to her neſt, and brought with aſtoniſhing expedition, the account which was confided to her.

In England we call this bird the Chimney Swallow, becauſe it generally builds in chimnies, ſometimes at the depth of five or ſix feet, ſo that the young find a difficulty in leaving it, and frequently fall into the room below. When they have ſucceeded, they remain for ſome time on the chimney top. Their next effort is to reach the leafleſs bough of a tree, where they ſit in a row; ſoon after they begin to fly, their parents attend upon, and meet them occaſionally at an angle, with an inſect which they receive upon the wing.

In Sweden, they build in barns; in other countries, in porches, gateways, galleries, and open halls.

They lay from four to ſix eggs; their firſt brood leaves their neſt the firſt week in July, their laſt about the middle or end of Auguſt.

The following remarks on the Chimney Swallow, are extracted from Mr. White's intereſting publication, intitled, The Natural Hiſtory of Selborne.

On the 22d September, 1772, he obſerved the

Swallows and Martins collecting on a walnut-tree; the next morning, which was foggy, at the dawn of day, they all aroſe together; the ruſhing noiſe of the wings, of ſuch a ſwarm of birds, againſt the hazy air, was heard to a conſiderable diſtance; after that day, only a few ſtragglers were ſeen.

He has remarked in ſome late ſprings, that though they made their appearance about the middle of April, yet meeting with cold, bluſtering, north-eaſt winds, they immediately withdrew, abſconding for ſeveral days, until warmer weather allured them out; hence, he infers, that they do not migrate.

When a boy, he remembers to have ſeen a ſtraggler on Shrove Tueſday, which muſt have been not later than the middle of March, and often happens early in February. He has known a Chimney Swallow build in the ſhaft of a well; but he adds, that they generally with us build in chimnies, preferring a funnel contiguous to thoſe where there are conſtant fires, and diſregarding ſmoke.

He remarks, that the Swallow diſcovers wonderful addreſs in aſcending and deſcending through ſo narrow a paſſage. When hovering over the top of the funnel, the vibrations of her wings in the confined air, make a rumbling noiſe like thunder.

The

The Swallow, he conceives, chuſes this, in ſome reſpects inconvenient ſituation, to ſecure the brood from rapacious birds, particularly owls, which frequently fall down chimnies, probably in attempting to get at the neſtlings.

When the young Swallows can fly, but are ſtill incapable of providing themſelves with food, they play about whilſt their parents are chacing flies, who, when they have collected a ſufficient quantity, make a ſignal, on which, the parent and the young, riſing towards each other, meet at an angle, and the young one receives the food, uttering a little note, expreſſive of gratitude, and affection. They ſip water as they fly, and bathe upon the wing.

They attend horſemen for miles together, as they ride over the downs, ſporting before, behind, and wheeling round, and collecting the inſects which are diſturbed by the trampling of the horſes.

They feed much on ſmall coleopterous, or ſheath winged inſects, and ſettle on the ground, picking up gravel to digeſt their food.

The Swallow is a pleaſing ſongſter, and ſings in ſoft, ſunny weather, between April and September. A Swallow for two years together built its neſt on the handles of a pair of garden ſhears.

Another built its neſt on the wings and body

of an owl, that was hung from the rafter of a barn. On placing a conch ſhell the following year, where the dead owl had hung before, a Swallow built in the conch ſhell, and both theſe neſts were lately in Sir Aſhton Lever's Muſeum.

The ESCULENT SWALLOW.

All the tail feathers are marked with white at the points.

The moſt curious circumſtance that we are acquainted with reſpecting this bird, is its neſt. Mr. Poivre gives the following relation: That in the Streights of Sunda, near Java, he went on ſhore with a ſailor, on an iſland, called the Little Toe; that in a deep cavern in the rocks, upon the beach, they found a cloud of little birds, which in endeavouring to eſcape, as they entered, darkened the opening of the cavern; he beat down ſome with his cane. As he advanced, he perceived the roof covered with neſts, in the form of cups, flattened on one ſide, containing each two or three eggs, or young birds, and lined with feathers; he brought ſeveral away with him, and made a drawing of a neſt and the birds; he deſcribes them as very ſmall, not exceeding in ſize a Wren, or Humming Bird.

The

The nests were immediately discovered to be of that kind, which the Chinese consider as so great a delicacy; using them in soups, and ragouts made of chickens, and mixed with ginseng.

The nests are first softened by being steeped in water, then pulled to pieces, put into the body of a fowl, and stewed.

Mr. Poivre says, that in the months of March and April, the surface of the sea from Java to Cochin-China, and from Sumatra to Guinea, is covered with a viscous substance, (perhaps fish spawn) which resembles glue, or isinglass dissolved. The Esculent Swallow is supposed to make its nest of this matter, which it may collect as it flies, or take from the rocks, where it may have been left by the waves.

Mr. Poivre collected, and dried some of this substance, and found it resemble very nearly the substance of the nest.

The colour of the new nests is white, like isinglass; and as the materials of which it is made are soluble in water, the birds very wisely build them in caverns, sheltered from rain.

Some of the nests are of a darker colour; these are supposed to be older, and mixed with impurities, and are used as glue.

The nests weigh about half an ounce each; they

are an article of commerce, and, it is ſaid, that the Dutch export every year from Batavia 125,000lb. or between 50 and 60 tons weight of theſe neſts.

Some writers ſuppoſe, that they are compoſed of ſea worms, of the Molluſca tribe; ſome of a kind of cuttle fiſh, and others of a glutinous plant, called Agal Agal.

Mr. Marſden ſays, that the Swallows that make theſe neſts, are about the ſize of a Martin, and that they collect with their bills from the foam of the ſea, the materials with which they make their neſts.

THE MARTIN.

The tail feathers are without ſpots. The upper part of the body, wings, and tail, blackiſh, gloſſed with blue; white beneath; and the extreme part of the body at the ſetting on of the tail, white.

The Martin builds its neſt againſt the ſides of cliffs that overhang the ſea, but more frequently under the eaves, under cornices, in the upper corners of windows, or under any other projecting parts of houſes. The materials that it employs are very ſimilar to thoſe uſed by the Swallows, viz. earth on the outſide, particularly that which has been thrown up by worms, tempered, and mixed with ſtraw; and lined with feathers. There is, however,

ever, this difference, that the Martin's neſt is covered above, and the entrance is at a ſmall hole in the ſide; add to this, that the Martin's neſt is far from neat, it is often infeſted with maggots, fleas, and even bugs, and theſe are likewiſe found in the feathers of the birds themſelves.

When they build their neſts againſt rocks, it is thought that they laſt but one ſeaſon; but the neſts which they fix to our houſes, ſerve for ſeveral years in ſucceſſion.

Sometimes they complete their neſt in five or ſix days; for this purpoſe they bring the earth in their beaks and claws, tempering it, and placing it with their bills; ſometimes ſeveral aſſiſt in the conſtruction of the ſame neſt. There have been inſtances too, where ſome have been ſeen active in endeavouring to deſtroy the labours of others, and to pull down the neſt as faſt as theſe built it up.

Martins do not appear in England quite ſo ſoon as the Swallow, and for a little while after their firſt arrival, confine themſelves to low, and marſhy ſituations. They ſeem ſo much under the influence of climate, and to have ſuch a preſentiment of approaching changes in the weather, that they have been known to quit Lapland the beginning of Auguſt, abandoning their young, though the weather

weather was then fine; but it soon changed, and by the 9th of September, fledges were used.

At other time they have been known to fly later, though the weather has not been very mild; it was judged from thence that no very severe weather would soon happen.

They breed two or three times in the season: the male assiduously attends upon the female whilst she sits, and shews the tenderest solicitude for her, and for their young, attacking with great spirit any bird that approaches the nest. Still there have been instances where, in consequence of an accidental derangement, this affection seems to have vanished. One of their little ones, just capable of flying, fell from the nest upon the window sill; the parents entirely neglected him: finding himself thus abandoned, he exerted his powers, and in three quarters of an hour began to fly. A nest was taken with all the young from the upper corner of a window, and laid upon the window sill; the parents flying backwards and forwards, and frequently visiting the spot where their nest was, must have seen their young, and heard their cries, but they shewed them no attention.

They live on insects, and feed their young when they can fly, on the wing; they catch the insects flying, and if they see one on a wall, they brush it

it with their wing, to induce it to attempt a flight, and thus the insect becomes more easily their prey.

It is asserted by some, that Martins also feed upon Caterpillars, which they pick from trees.

It has been observed, and Linnæus has given his authority to the observation, that Sparrows sometimes dislodge the Martins from their nest, who, in revenge, plaister up the entrance, and thus bury the invader alive.

Mr. Bomare has made a very entertaining story of this circumstance in his dictionary: he represents the injured Martins as gently expostulating at first with the intruders, but without effect; that then they call a council of the neighbouring Martins, state their grievance, and implore their aid; that the Martins depute heralds to summon the invaders to retire, and that when they find these messengers return without success, the whole assembly breaks up. Every Martin provides himself with some tempered earth; they all resort to the nest, making a third attempt to induce the Sparrows to restore the habitation which they have usurped: this proving ineffectual, they proceed to punish such obstinate injustice by closing up the entrance, and entombing the Sparrows, thus making the property they have so unfairly acquired the means of their punishment.

It

It muſt be ſuppoſed that there is a good deal of imagination in this detail of Mr. Bomare's; indeed, Mr. Buffon doubts if Martins ever have recourſe to ſuch a revenge, having ſeen Sparrows uſurp their neſts, and obſtinately retain poſſeſſion, though perſecuted for ſome days by the Martins, who, however, made no attempt to cloſe the entrance of the neſt.

It would be difficult to bring up Martins or Swallows in confinement, becauſe inſects ſeem their proper food. There is an account of ſome children keeping a neſt of Chimney Swallows alive ten days, by feeding them with that which had paſſed through other Swallows before; they lived very well upon this food, until the proceſs was interrupted by the mother of the children, who ſeemed to be more attached to neatneſs than to philoſophical experiments. Leguat, a traveller, ſpeaks of a Swallow that he tamed, and brought from the Canary Iſlands; he ſuffered it to fly out in the morning, and it conſtantly returned in the evening.

The Count Buffon mentions a tame Swallow, or Martin, which had conceived ſuch an attachment to its miſtreſs, as to remain whole days upon her knees, and ſhew many expreſſions of joy on her return, after a ſhort abſence. It began to

feed

feed out of her hands. One day the bird made its escape, it did not fly far, but suffered itself to be caught by a child, and soon after fell a prey to a cat.

They leave England about the latter end of September, or beginning of October, and before their departure have been observed to exercise themselves in flying more than usually high, as though preparing for a migration.

In the Natural History of Selborne, a book of great merit, lately published, the author says, that on the 26th of November, his neighbour saw a Martin in a sheltered bottom chacing flies, the sun then shone warm; that on the 4th of November he saw several House Martins playing all day long over his fields. He observes, that from the situation of the Martin's nest against a perpendicular wall, it requires great effort, and judgment, firmly to fix the foundation that the superstructure may be secure. For this purpose the bird clings with its claws, and uses its tail for a support like a Woodpecker; and that the materials may not fall by their weight, in a soft state, the intelligent architect advances its work slowly, building only in the morning, and devoting the rest of the day to amusement, and the chace of insects.

The parent birds remove every thing offensive from

from the neſt, whilſt their brood are very young. The little ones ſoon acquire an attention to neatneſs themſelves, and perform that office by putting their tails out at the opening of the neſt.

Martins prefer a north-eaſt or north-weſt expoſure for their neſts, that they may not be cracked, and injured by the heat of the ſun; yet, inſtinct does not ſeem to lead them invariably right, for ſometimes they build in ſuch ſituations that their neſts have been waſhed down by rain, and yet they perſevere year after year in the ſame ſituations.

Mr. White has ſeen young Martins that only left their neſts on the 22d of October: from this, and other obſervations, particularly from having traced their evening retirement in October, for ſeveral nights ſucceſſively, amongſt ſome low and ſtunted ſhrubs, almoſt impervious to a dog, and in many parts difficult to approach, he ſuppoſes, that part of them, at leaſt, muſt have a winter retreat in this iſland. It is very remarkable too, that the numbers which return in the ſpring, bear little proportion to thoſe which withdraw the preceding winter. Are they deſtroyed by their enemies, or do the parents prevent the younger brood from ſettling in their neighbourhood?

Martins

Martins have not much note; they chirp, however, from May to September.

They are diſtinguiſhed from other birds of this genus, by their legs being covered with ſoft, downy feathers, to the toes.

The SAND MARTIN.

Is of a mouſe colour; the throat and ſtomach white; the neck encircled with a mouſe coloured ring.

It inhabits moſt parts of Europe, and frequents the ſteep banks of rivers, of ſand pits, of ſand rocks near the ſea, and by the ſide of ſtanding waters, becauſe their inſect food abounds in ſuch ſituations, and becauſe there they can with greater eaſe, make thoſe ſerpentine, deep, but horizontal holes in which they depoſit their eggs, and hatch their young. The neſt of this ſpecies is only a heap of ſtraw and dried graſs, furniſhed properly with feathers.

They have more abundant means of ſubſiſtence than moſt of their tribe, as they not only feed upon inſects which they chace with great rapidity and addreſs, as they hover over the ſurface of the water, but they feed upon the larvæ and chryſalids which conceal themſelves in the ground, and their young in conſequence, in general, are very fat, and

and in ſome countries eſteemed a great delicacy. They arrive in England, and migrate from it about the ſame time as the Martin. They have been ſeen in ſome parts of France during the winter months, but in very ſmall numbers, ſo as not to juſtify any general inference; and as they have reſources in reſpect of food which the Martins have not, as mentioned before, it is eaſy to conceive the probability of ſome accidental ſtraggler ſurviving the winter.

Mr. White mentions, that they build in ſcaffold holes, in a ſtable at Biſhop-Waltham, but that this wall is in a retired, and ſequeſtered incloſure, and faces a large and beautiful lake. He makes the following obſervations.

Many holes, of different depths, made by the Sand Martin, are found unfiniſhed at the end of ſummer: perhaps the birds in thoſe places may have met with ſtrata too hard and ſolid for their tender bills, or the ſoil may have been looſe, and mouldering, and have fallen in, for it is ſcarcely conceived that theſe are provided for the ſucceeding year. After ſome years they forſake their former holes, which may have become foul and offenſive from long uſe; and perhaps untenable, from their abounding with fleas, which have been ſeen ſwarming at the mouths of their holes, like bees on the ſtools of their hives.

The

The Sand Martins discover great dexterity in boring their holes in the sand, and perform the task with surprising quickness, considering the feeble instruments they employ; indeed it is wonderful how so weak, and tender a bill, can perforate the bank at all.

They have a peculiar manner of flying, flitting about with odd jerks, like the motions of a butterfly.

They are the smallest of the genus Hirundo, except, perhaps, the Esculent Swallow.

The PURPLE SWALLOW.

The plumage is of a beautiful violet colour, and the tail forked.

It inhabits Carolina and Virginia, appearing in May, and retiring on the approach of winter.

The common people are very fond of this species, and place boards and other conveniences for them to build upon, as some do for Sparrows in England. These little birds requite their kindness, by delivering them from flies and insects, and by alarming their poultry upon the approach of Hawks, and other birds of prey, which they attack with great spirit.

THE SWIFT.

The plumage a dusky black, the throat white, the feet toes all forwards.

This is a large species; it comes the latest, appearing about the latter end of April, and departs the earliest; and during its short summer residence with us, has only time to rear one brood.

Its manner of flying is more rapid, and more elevated than that of others of the Swallow tribe; and from the great length of its wings, and shortness of its legs, if it were once on the ground, it would have great difficulty in recovering its flight; when this happens, it waddles in an awkward, embarrassed manner to some elevation, a little hillock, or a stone, from which with great effort it contrives to rise. From this structure in the bird, the whole of its life is spent in the opposite extremes, of the most rapid motion, and the most absolute rest. Sometimes, indeed, it is seen to fix itself against the wall, or the trunk of the tree near its nest, and to clamber into it with the help of its beak and wings, and tail and claws, availing itself of every support in its power; but far more frequently it enters its nest on the wing, and with that rapidity that it seems in an instant to vanish

nish from the eye, as though it were dissolved in air.

Their nests are generally made in holes of walls, which are larger within than at the entrance: they prefer elevated situations, as steeples, and lofty towers, though sometimes, for concealment, perhaps, and security, they build under the arches of bridges; sometimes too, in hollow trees. They have been known to usurp the nests of Sparrows, and when Sparrows have intruded into theirs, they have contrived means of compelling them to relinquish the unjust acquisition. Their nests in towns are composed of various materials, of straw, of grass, moss, hemp, thread, silk, rags, gauze, muslin, and the sweepings of the streets; some of these they take upon the wing as they are raised from the ground by the wind; some, perhaps, they procure from Sparrows nests, which they have been observed to plunder.

When the young are hatched, their parents feed them only two or three times a day, but then they bring them a plentiful provision, their swallow being filled with flies, beetles, butterflies, and insects of various kinds; they feed too upon spiders.

Both the young and the parent birds swarm with fleas.

In Savoy, the young are eſteemed delicate food.

In the Iſland of Zante, children often take them by ſuſpending a feather upon a hook, at the end of a long thread from the window of a tower, or ſome elevated building; the Swift ſeizing the feather to convey to his neſt, is caught upon the hook.

Swifts are impatient of heat, and on that account paſs the middle of the day in their neſts.

Like others of their tribe, they are liable to be infeſted with inſects.

We are indebted to Mr. White, for the following obſervations on the Swift.

That it eats, drinks, collects materials for its neſt, and performs every office on the wing, except ſleeping, and incubation; he thinks he has frequently ſeen them careſs one another in the air.

The Swift never ſeems ſo much to enjoy itſelf as in ſultry weather, juſt previous to thunder. In warm, ſunny mornings, in little parties, they wing their rapid flight round ſteeples and churches, ſqueaking in a clamorous manner: theſe are ſuppoſed to be the males ſerenading their females as they ſit, ſince they ſeldom alter their cry until they approach the neſt, and thoſe within return a little note, expreſſive of complacency.

They collect insects in a pouch under their tongue, and some chace in higher regions of the air than others of their tribe; though they have been observed flitting rapidly very low for hours together, over pools and streams, in pursuit of the phryganæ, ephemeræ, and libellulæ (insects,) just emerged from their larva state.

They are on the wing all day long, in gentle rains, whence we may infer, that their feathers are capable of resisting much wet. In windy weather, or heavy showers, they confine themselves to their nests.

When they arrive in the spring, their plumage is of a glossy soot colour, except the chin, which is white; but before they leave us, by being so continually in the sun, it becomes weather-beaten, and faded. They return again glossy the next season; hence, it is probable, that they do not retire to sunny climates, and this seems supported, by their disappearing from the southern parts of Spain, before they become invisible with us. Do they withdraw to moult, and to rest from the fatigue of some months passed in unceasing activity?

They breed, as observed before, but once in a season, and produce only two young ones.

They are fearless whilst haunting their nesting

places: then they are not ſcared by a gun, and are often beaten down with poles, and ſticks, as they attempt to enter their neſts.

They have a ſtrong graſp with their feet, which enables them to cling to walls, and their bodies being flat, they can enter a narrow crevice.

They are much infeſted with vermin; and young ones are ſometimes found fallen on the ground under their neſts, which the fleas perhaps may have rendered inſupportable.

For ſeveral years eight pair were obſerved to frequent the Church at Selborne: as they every year bred eight pair more, what becomes of the increaſe?—the parents, perhaps, compel them to find ſome other ſpot.

On the 24th of Auguſt, Mr. White obſerved a ſolitary Swift, which he diſcovered attended upon two young ones in a neſt, under the eaves of a building.

On the 27th they all diſappeared. On the 31ſt he had the eaves uncovered, and found in a neſt two dead Swifts, quite putrid, over theſe a ſecond neſt had been formed.

This proves that Swifts, when ſuch a circumſtance makes it neceſſary, can ſubſiſt here after the uſual time of their migration; it likewiſe affords a preſumption, that they raiſe but one brood in a year.

The WHITE BELLIED SWIFT.

The plumage is dusky; the throat and stomach white: the four toes placed forwards, and it has ten feathers in the tail.

It inhabits the mountainous parts of Spain, Switzerland, and Savoy, building in holes of rocks. It appears in Savoy the beginning of April, frequenting ponds and marshes at first, for 15 or 20 days; after which it retires to the mountainous parts to breed.

The WHITE COLLARED SWALLOW

Makes its nest in houses at Cayenne.

The nest is large, composed of the down of dog's bane, well woven; the cavity is divided obliquely by a partition, and a small parcel of soft down is placed over the top, to keep the eggs and the young brood warm.

GENUS 80. CAPRIMULGUS.

The beak a little hooked, very small, depressed at the base; and beset with stiff bristles on the edges of the upper mandibles.

The gape is very wide.

The tongue is pointed, and entire at the end.

The tail consists of ten feathers, and is not forked.

The legs are ſhort; the toes united by a membrane as far as the firſt joint; the claw of the middle toe in ſome ſpecies ſerrated.

The birds of this genus bear the ſame relation to Swallows, as Owls to the rapacious birds: their habits and manners are very ſimilar, but like Owls, they take their food in an evening.

The Goatſucker feeds principally upon gnats, beetles, and moths. He begins his chace when the ſun is near the horizon; and if he appear in the middle of the day, it is only when the weather is cloudy, his flight then is low, and not long continued, becauſe his eyes are unpleaſantly affected with the glare of light.

Like the Swallow tribe, he is not under the neceſſity of ſnapping his beak every time he gets an inſect into his mouth, for it is furniſhed with a kind of glue, which entangles, and retains his prey.

Goatſuckers with us are migratory birds, arriving in England in May, and departing in Auguſt.

They do not give themſelves the trouble of building a neſt; a little hole upon the ground, in a ſtony place, at the foot of a tree, or of a rock, anſwers their purpoſe; there the female lays two eggs; ſhe ſits upon them very aſſiduouſly; and

and it is said, if she apprehend they are discovered, that she very dexterously contrives to push them into another hole, which, though as exposed as before, may appear to her more secure.

The birds of this genus have a remarkable habit of flying round a tree, in full leaf, perhaps a hundred times successively, in a rapid and irregular manner, sometimes darting instantly down, as it were to seize their prey; at other times rising as instantaneously, probably in chace of those insects which are fluttering there.

As the Goatsuckers wing their flight with great rapidity, and with their beaks open, they make a whirring noise, which has been compared to that of a spinning wheel, from which they have been called Wheel-birds.

They seldom perch, but when they do, it is lengthways on the branch.

The EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER.

The plumage is very singular, and not easily described; the ground colour is almost black, but it is mottled like the Woodcock's.

The legs are short, and feathered below the Knee.

The nostrils are faintly tubular.

This is the only species that is found in Europe.

It inhabits equally Europe and America; flies in the evening, feeding on moths, and nocturnal inſects, particularly the Scarabeus Melolentha, or Dor Beetle. It is migratory, ſtays only from the end of May to the end of Auguſt in the northern, and until the end of September in the ſouthern parts of the iſland.

It has two notes, the one a ſharp ſqueak, this it utters as it purſues its mate; the other reſembles as mentioned before, the humming of a ſpinning wheel. It not only makes this noiſe as it flies, but often begins it in the evening, ſitting on a bare bough, with its head lower than the tail, and quivering the lower mandible. The noiſe jarrs ſo much, as to occaſion a ſenſible vibration on any little building, on which the bird may chance to alight.

Mr. White obſerved a Goatſucker playing round a large oak, which ſwarmed with Scarabæi Solſtitiales, or Fern Chaffers; its quick evolutions, and powers of wing, exceeding, if poſſible, thoſe of the Swallow genus. He ſaw it diſtinctly more than once put out its ſhort leg whilſt flying, and by bending its neck, deliver ſomething into its mouth, probably ſome of the Chaffers which it might catch with its feet: this, Mr. White thinks, may juſtly account for the middle

middle toe being furnished with a serrated claw, to retain its prey.

The VIRGINIA GOATSUCKER

Arrives in Virginia about the middle of April. A few minutes after the sun is set, they frequently approach houses, and settling on a rail, or post, utter a piercing and disagreeable cry, which has been thought to resemble the words, *Whip-poor-Will*, the first and last syllables pronounced the loudest. This noise they repeat with little intermission until the next morning, flying about from one place to another.

It is very disagreeable, and disturbing; and being sometimes repeated by four or five assembled together, and reverberated and multiplied by echoes from the mountains, it is difficult to sleep in their neighbourhood.

They are mostly on the mountains; they make no nest, but lay their eggs in an exposed situation, upon the bare ground.

The GRAND GOATSUCKER;

Is the size of a small buzzard, and inhabits Cayenne. Like others of the same genus it is solitary, retiring into the hollow of a decayed tree in the day-time, and preferring one situated in the neighbourhood of water.

The BLACK-BIRD; *an Elegy.* By Mr. JAGO.

THE Sun had chac'd the mountain snow,
And kindly loos'd the frozen soil;
The melting streams began to flow,
And ploughmen urg'd their annual toil.

'Twas then, amid the vocal throng,
Whom nature wakes to mirth and love,
A Black-bird rais'd his am'rous song,
And thus it echo'd thro' the grove.

O fairest of the feather'd train!
For whom I sing, for whom I burn,
Attend with pity to my strain,
And grant my love a kind return.

For see the wintry storms are flown,
And gentle Zephyrs fan the air;
Let us the genial influence own;
Let us the vernal pastime share.

The Raven plumes his jetty wing,
To please his croaking paramour;
The Larks responsive ditties sing,
And tell their passion as they soar.

But

But truſt me, love, the Raven's wing
Is not to be compar'd with mine;
Nor can the Lark ſo ſweetly ſing,
As I, who ſtrength with ſweetneſs join.

O! let me all thy ſteps attend!
I'll point new treaſures to thy ſight;
Whether the grove thy wiſh befriend,
Or hedge-rows green, or meadows bright.

I'll ſhew my love the cleareſt rill,
Whoſe ſtreams among the pebbles ſtray;
Theſe will we ſip, and ſip our fill,
Or on the flow'ry margin play.

I'll lead her to the thickeſt brake,
Impervious to the ſchool-boy's eye;
For her the plaiſter'd neſt I'll make,
And on her downy pinions lie.

When, prompted by a mother's care,
Her warmth ſhall form th' impriſon'd young;
The pleaſing taſk I'll gladly ſhare,
Or cheer her labours with my ſong.

To bring her food I'll range the fields,
And cull the beſt of every kind;
Whatever nature's bounty yields,
And love's aſſiduous care can find.

And when my lovely mate would ſtray,
To taſte the ſummer ſweets at large,
I'll wait at home the live-long day,
And tend with care our little charge.

Then prove with me the ſweets of love,
With me divide the cares of life;
No buſh ſhall boaſt in all the grove
So fond a mate, ſo bleſt a wife.

He ceas'd his ſong. The melting dame
With ſoft indulgence heard the ſtrain;
She felt, ſhe own'd a mutual flame,
And haſted to relieve his pain.

He led her to the nuptial bower,
And neſtled cloſely by her ſide;
The fondeſt bridegroom of that hour,
And ſhe the moſt delighted bride.

Next morn he wak'd her with a ſong,
"Behold!" he ſaid, "the new-born day!
The Lark his mattin peal has rung,
Ariſe, my love, and come away."

Together through the fields they ſtray'd,
And to the murm'ring riv'let's ſide,
Renew'd their vows, and hopp'd and play'd,
With honeſt joy and decent pride.

When

When oh! with grief the muſe relates
The mournful ſequel of my tale;
Sent by an order from the fates,
A gunner met them in the vale.

Alarm'd, the lover cry'd, my dear,
Haſte, haſte away, from danger fly;
Here, gunner, point thy thunder here;
O ſpare my love, and let me die.

At him the gunner took his aim;
His aim, alas! was all too true:
O! had he choſe ſome other game!
Or ſhot, as he was wont to do!

Divided pair! forgive the wrong,
While I with tears your fate rehearſe;
I'll join the widow's plaintive ſong,
And ſave the lover in my verſe.

The GOLD-FINCHES; *an Elegy.* By Mr. JAGO.

'TWAS gentle ſpring, when all the tuneful race,
By nature taught, in nuptial leagues combine,
A Gold-finch joy'd to meet the fond embrace,
And heart and fortune with her mate to join.

Through nature's ſpacious walks at large they rang'd,
No ſettled haunts, no fix'd abode their aim;
As chance or fancy led, their path they chang'd,
Themſelves in every vary'd ſcene, the ſame.

All

All in a garden, on a currant-bush,
With wond'rous art they built their waving seat;
In the next orchard liv'd a friendly Thrush.
Not distant far a Woodlark's soft retreat.

Here blest with ease, and in each other blest,
With early songs they wak'd the sprightly groves,
'Till time matur'd their bliss, and crown'd their nest
With infant pledges of their faithful loves.

And now what transport glow'd in either's eye!
What equal fondness dealt the allotted food!
What joy each other's likeness to descry,
And future sonnets in the chirping brood!

But ah! what earthly happiness can last?
How does the fairest purpose often fail?
A truant school-boy's wantonness could blast
Their rising hopes, and leave them both to wail.

The most ungentle of his tribe was he;
No generous precept ever touch'd his heart:
With concords false and hideous prosody,
He scrawl'd his task, and blunder'd o'er his part.

On barb'rous plunder bent, with savage eye,
He mark'd where wrapt in down the younglings lay,
Then rushing, seiz'd the wretched family,
And bore them in his impious hands away.

But how ſhall I relate in numbers rude,
The pangs for poor Chryſomitris decreed!
When from a neighb'ring ſpray aghaſt ſhe view'd
The ſavage ruffian's inauſpicious deed!

So, wrapt in grief, ſome heart-ſtruck matron ſtands,
While horrid flame ſurround her children's room!
On heav'n ſhe calls, and wrings her trembling hands,
Conſtrain'd to ſee, but not prevent their doom.

O grief of griefs! with ſhrieking voice, ſhe cry'd,
What ſight is this that I have liv'd to ſee?
O! that I had a maiden Gold-finch died,
From love's falſe joys, and bitter ſorrows free!

Was it for this, alas! with weary bill,
Was it for this, I pois'd th' unwieldy ſtraw?
For this I pick'd the moſs from yonder hill?
Nor ſhunn'd the pond'rous chaff along to draw?

Was it for this, I cull'd the wool with care;
And ſtrove with all my ſkill our work to crown?
For this, with pain I bent the ſtubborn hair,
And lin'd our cradle with the thiſtle's down?

Was it for this my freedom I reſign'd;
And ceas'd to rove from beauteous plain to plain?
For this I ſat at home whole days confin'd,
And bore the ſcorching heat, and pealing rain?

Was

Was it for this my watchful eyes grew dim?
The crimson roses on my cheek turn pale?
Pale is my golden plumage, once so trim;
And all my wonted spirits 'gin to fail.

O plund'rer vile; O more than Weezel fell!
More treach'rous than the Cat with prudish face;
More fierce than Kites with whom the furies dwell,
More pilf'ring than the Cuckow's prowling race.

For thee may plum or gooseb'ry never grow,
Nor juicy currant cool thy clammy throat;
But bloody birch-twigs work thee shameful woe,
Nor ever Gold-finch cheer thee with her note!

Thus sang the mournful bird her piteous tale,
The piteous tale her mournful mate return'd;
Then side by side they sought the distant vale,
And there in silent sadness inly mourn'd.

DIRECTIONS for placing the PLATES in Part VI.

	Page
Pigeon, oppoſite	4
New Zealand Lark,	27
Reed Lark,	40
Stare, or Starling,	41
Roſe-coloured Ouzel,	53
Blackbird,	54
Blue Thruſh,	59
Chatterer of Carolina,	63
Pompadour,	65
Croſs Bill,	66
Hawkfinch, or Pine Groſbeak,	69
Bullfinch,	72
Rice Bunting,	83
Whidah Bunting,	85
Tanager,	87
Golden Tanager,	89
Goldfinch,	91
Common Sparrow,	101
Frizzled Sparrow,	106
American Redſtart, or Flycatcher,	107
Fantail Flycatcher,	110
Grey Wagtail,	115
The Nightingale,	121
Thorntail Warbler,	155
Redbreaſt,	156
Wren,	160
Great Headed Titmouſe,	176
Blue Titmouſe,	178
Longtail Titmouſe,	181
Titmouſe,	186
American Martin,	206
Goatſucker,	223

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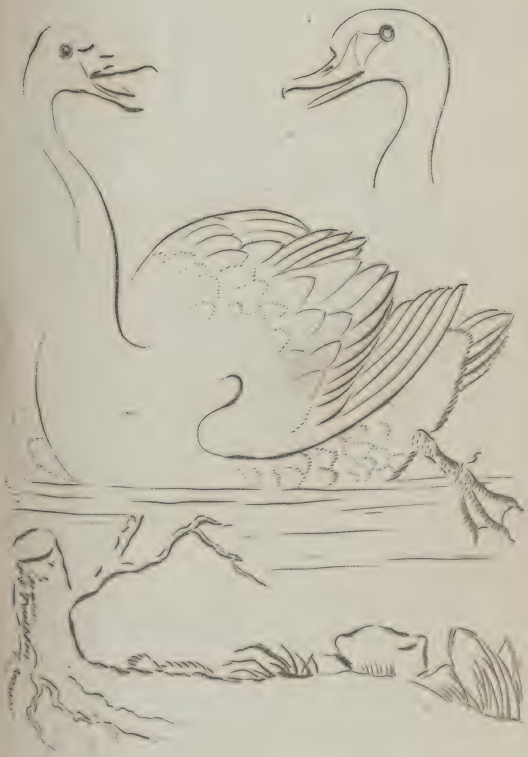

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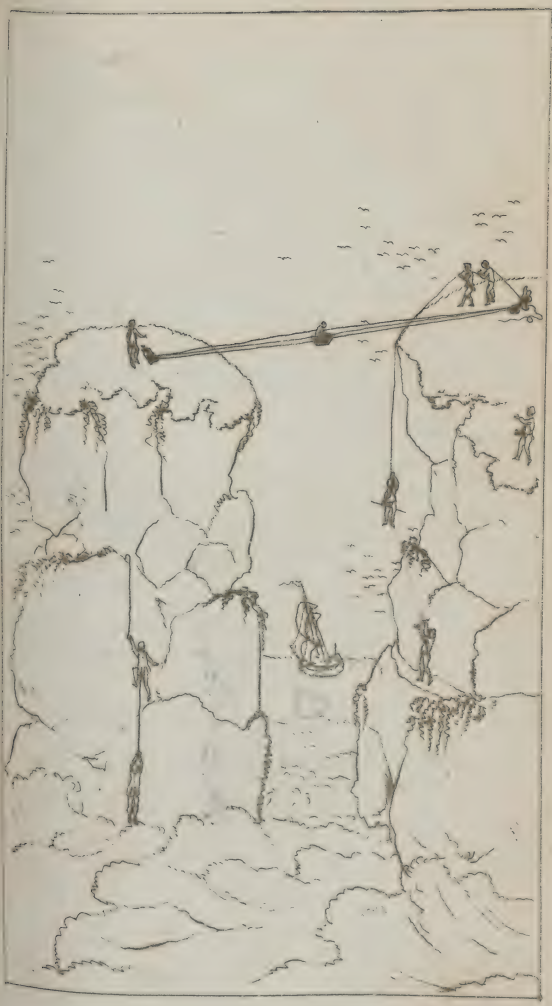

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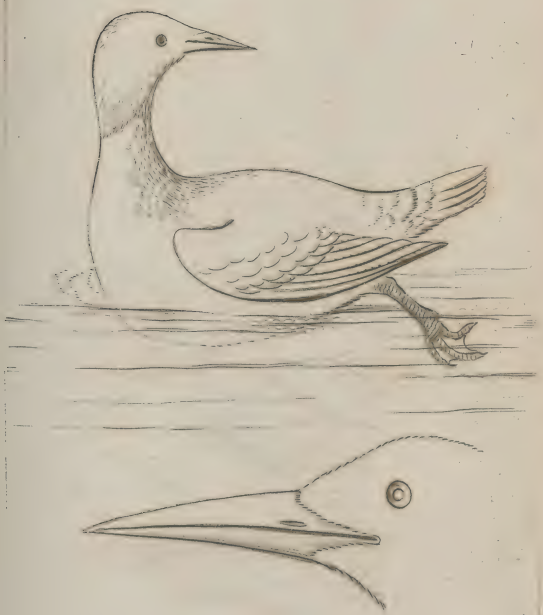

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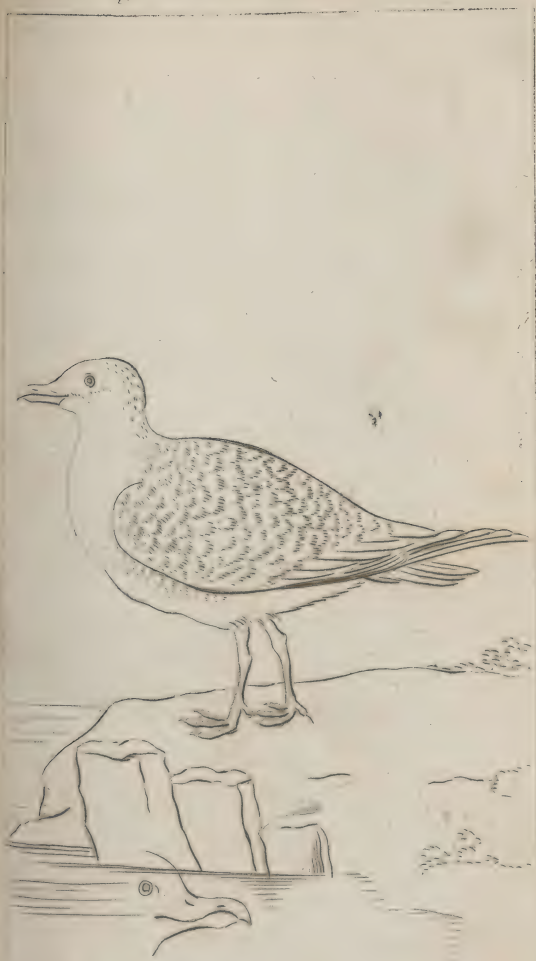

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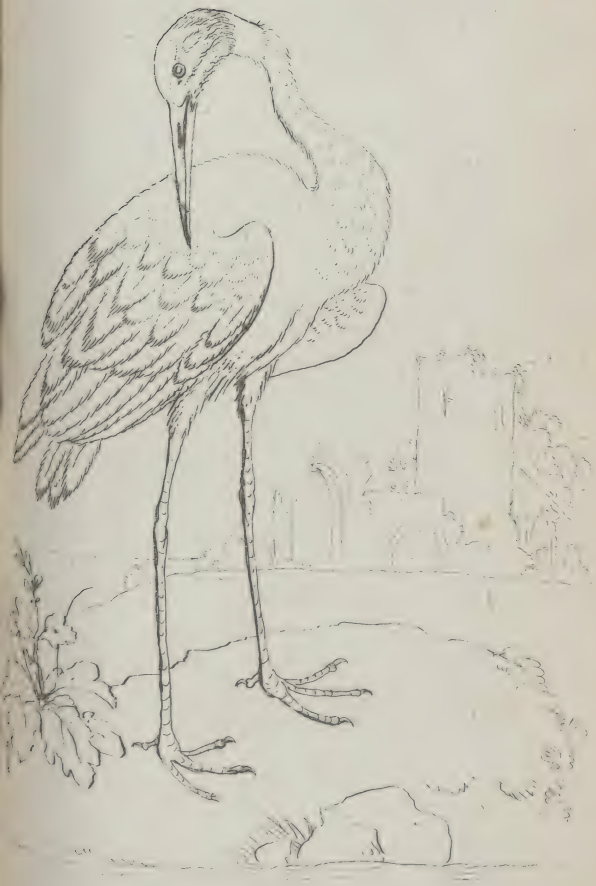

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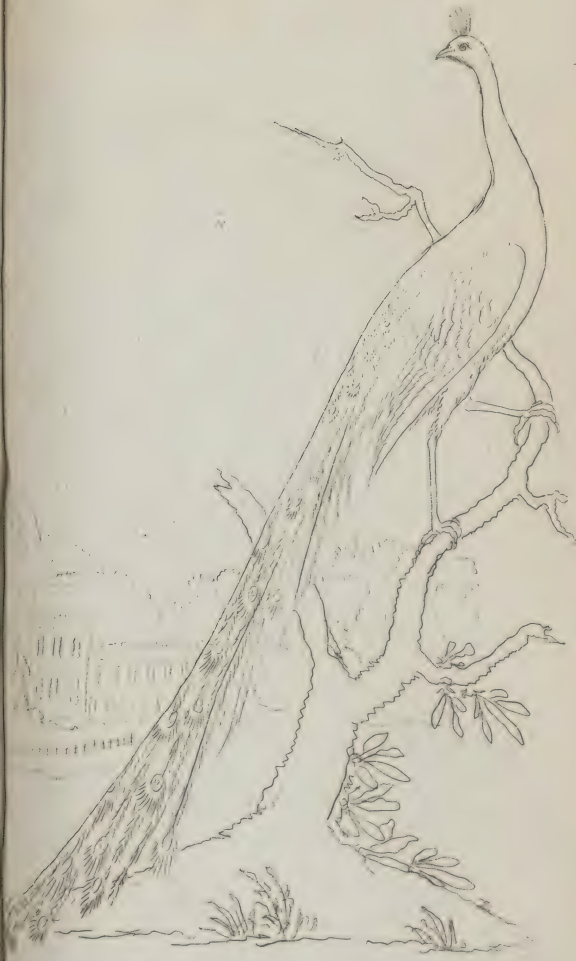

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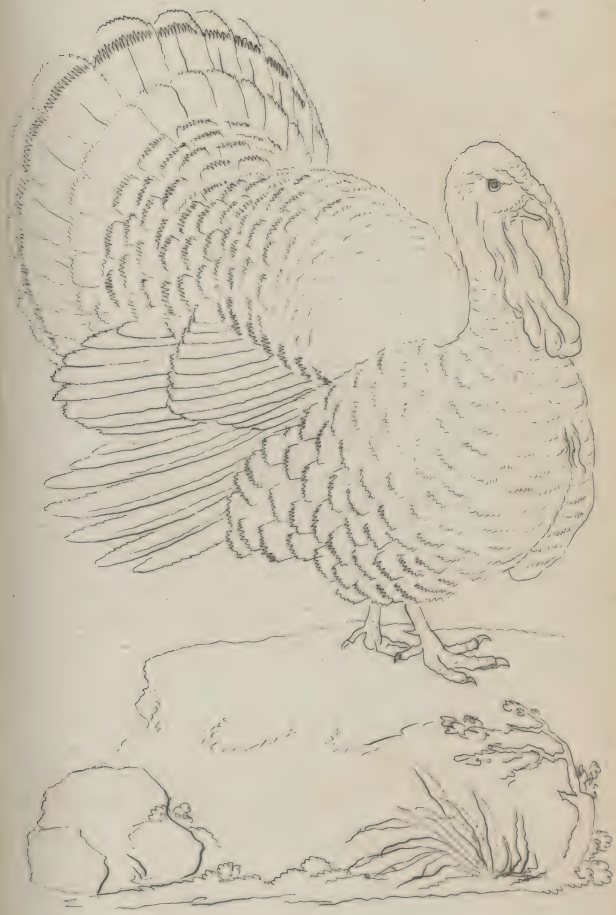

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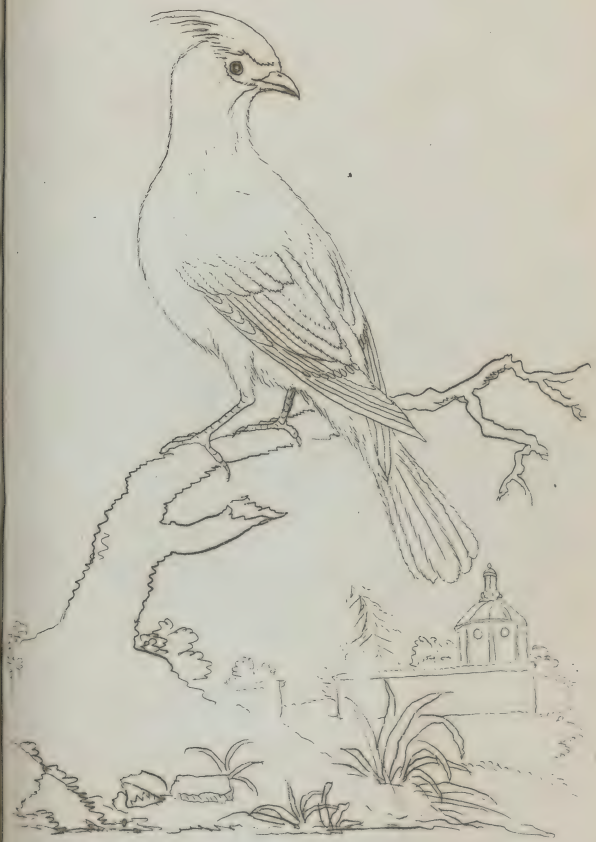

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Genus 73 Tanagra.

TANAGER of PARADISE.

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GOLDEN TANAGER.

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Genus 74 Fringilla.

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Genus 74 Fringilla.

COMMON SPARROW.

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Genus 74 Fringilla.

FRIZZLED SPARROW.

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Genus 75. Muscicapa.

FANTAIL FLY CATCHER.

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Genus 75 Muscicapa.

IERICAN REDSTART or FLY CATCHER.

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Genus 76. Motacilla.

WATER WAGTAIL.

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Genus 76 Motacilla.

NIGHTINGALE.

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Genus 76 Motacilla.

THORN TAIL WARBLER.

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ORDER 6th. Paſseres.

Genus 76 Motacilla.

ROBIN RED BREAST.

Publiſhed June 1st 1797 by Jos. Johnſon St. Pauls Church Yard London.

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Genus 76 Motacilla.

WREN.

Published June 1.st 1787 by Jos. Johnson St.Pauls Church Yard London.

ORDER 6th Passeres.

Genus 78 Parus.

GREAT HEADED TITMOUSE.

Published June 1st 1767 by Jos. Johnson in St. Pauls Church Yard London.

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Genus 78 Parus.

TITMOUSE BLUE HEADED.

Publiſhed June 1st 1787 by Jos. Johnſon St. Pauls Church Yard London.

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Genus 78 Parus.

LONG TAIL TITMOUSE.

Published June 1st 1787 by Jas. John son St. Pauls Church Yard London.

ORDER 6th

Genus 72.

TITMOUSE.

Published June 21st 1787 by Jos Johnson St Pauls Church Yd London.

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Genus 79 Hirundo.

MERICAN MARTIN or CANADA SWALLOW.

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ORDER 6th Passeres.

Genus 80 Caprimulgus.

GOAT SUCKER or WHIP POOR WILL.

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